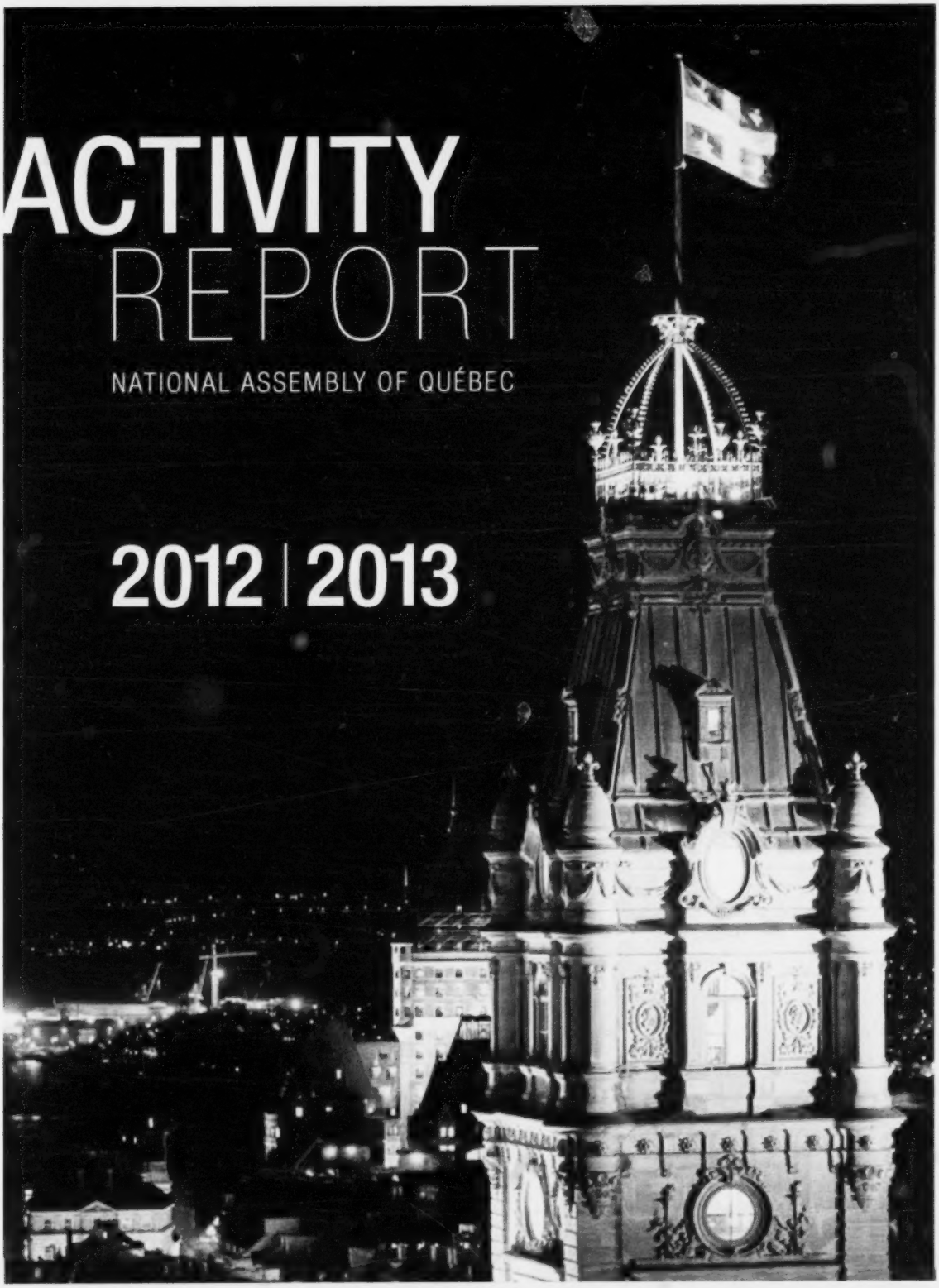

ACTIVITY REPORT

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

2012 | 2013

Front cover:

The central tower of the Parliament Building seems to watch over the city.

Photo: Renaud Philippe, National Assembly Collection

ACTIVITY REPORT

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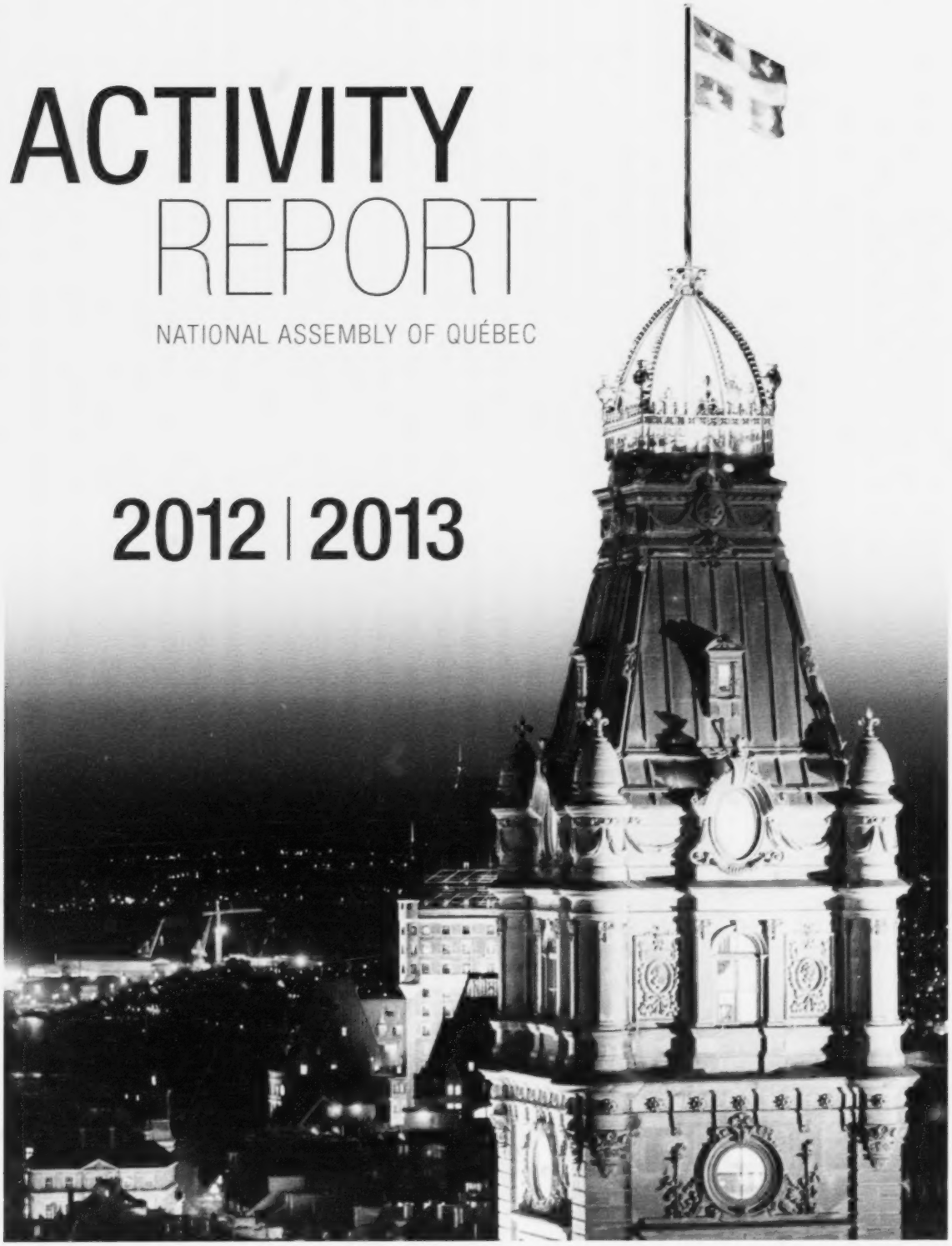

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A WORD FROM THE **PRESIDENT**

I am very pleased to submit to you the *2012-2013 Activity Report* of the National Assembly of Québec. This document takes stock of a year that was intense on so many levels, marked by a general election that brought 40 new Members to the National Assembly. For the first time in Québec history, a woman was elected Premier. Moreover, a record number of 41 women were elected, bringing their parliamentary representation to 33%. Also, for the second time since 1878, the population of Québec chose to elect a minority government.

On 30 October 2012, I was honoured to be re-elected by the Members as President of the National Assembly. I would like to thank them all for placing their trust upon me once again, and allowing me to continue taking on this role with neutrality and impartiality. That is why I started my second term as President by taking an oath, a first in Québec.

On the parliamentary and legislative fronts, a number of temporary amendments to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly and of its Rules of Procedure were adopted to take into account the new composition of the Assembly. The composition of the standing committees and respective Chairs were revisited and the rule regarding calling attention to the want of a quorum was adapted for the duration of the legislature.

In addition to addressing the work of the Members sitting at the National Assembly and in standing committees, the present activity report addresses the major achievements that have marked the past year. Among them is the unveiling of a monument honouring women in politics. This work of art highlights the contribution of the three pioneers—Idola Saint-Jean, Marie Lacoste-Gérin-Lajoie and Thérèse Casgrain—who campaigned for women's right to vote and their eligibility as candidates, which was obtained in 1940. The monument also honours Marie-Claire Kirkland, the first woman elected at the Parliament of Québec, on 14 December 1961.

The National Assembly also hosted, from 15 to 21 July 2012, the 50th Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. More than 140 delegates—including nearly 40 international observers—met at the Parliament Building to discuss themes as various as the role of interparliamentary relations in human rights advocacy, the impact of social media on Member duty and the participation of Aboriginal communities in political and parliamentary life.

I hope that this report will allow you to appreciate the work and efforts put in by the parliamentarians and staff of the National Assembly, for the benefit of democracy in Québec.

Enjoy your reading!

Jacques Chagnon
President of the National Assembly

A WORD FROM THE **SECRETARY GENERAL**

I join the President of the National Assembly in presenting this 14th activity report, which provides an overview of the parliamentary work and the achievements of the National Assembly.

The past fiscal year of the Assembly was marked by the general election of 4 September 2012. The very next day, the Assembly set in motion an important operation in order to welcome the new or re-elected Members. This intense effervescence required exceptional work from the administrative staff. As such, we were able to provide them with the necessary services and tools to do their work, as soon as practicable, whether in the Assembly or in their ridings. Having said that, I sincerely thank them for their contribution in setting up the 40th Legislature, and also for their work, through which they offer constant quality service, day in and day out.

This report presents a number of activities that marked the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Among them is the presence of the National Assembly in social media. Facebook and Twitter have been added to our usual means of communications in order to bring the latest news regarding parliamentary and institutional activities. Theme exhibitions at the Parliament Building and the National Assembly Library, *Gouverner en Nouvelle-France*, celebrating the 350th anniversary of the creation of the Sovereign Council in Québec, and *Récits de voyages du XVIe au XVIIIe siècle*, un monde à découvrir, highlighting the numerous travel tales that are part of the National Assembly Library Collections, also come to mind.

On another note, an administrative reorganization occurred following the adoption, by the Office of the Assembly, of a new administrative structure, on 6 December 2012, which aimed at improving the provision of services to parliamentarians and to citizens, combining similar services, and generating recurrent savings by reducing the number of management positions.

In conclusion, this report ends a very busy year with regard to parliamentary and institutional activities that, once again, contributed to increase awareness of the National Assembly to the public and, consequently, promoting it abroad.

Michel Bonsaint
Secretary General of the National Assembly

HIGHLIGHTS

From the 39th to the 40th Legislature

The Lieutenant-Governor proclaimed the dissolution of the National Assembly on 1 August 2012, ending the 39th Legislature. Thus, a general election took place on 4 September 2012. For the first time in Québec history, a woman was elected as Premier. Moreover, 41 women were elected, representing one-third of the seats. This number is unprecedented in the history of the province.

Mr. Jacques Chagnon was re-elected as President of the National Assembly. For his part, Mr. François Ouimet was re-elected Vice-President. Finally, Ms. Carole Poirier and Mr. Claude Cousineau were elected as Vice-Presidents.

The new composition of the Assembly required some changes to the organization and the functioning of parliamentary work; the President of the National Assembly had to make decisions to ensure the proper conduct of the proceedings due to the presence of three parliamentary groups. Based on his experience during the 38th Legislature under a minority government, Mr. Chagnon adopted guidelines for the conduct of Oral Questions and Answers and for the distribution of the various control measures.

The President's Oath

For the first time in Québec history, a President was sworn in before the Secretary General of the Assembly following his election.

HIGHLIGHTS

Unveiling of the Monument Honouring Women in Politics

On 5 December 2012, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, unveiled a monument honouring women in politics, accompanied by the Premier, Ms. Pauline Marois, the leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier, and the Leader of the Second Opposition Group, Mr. François Legault. This monument, erected on the grounds of the Parliament Building, highlights the contribution of the three pioneers—Idola Saint-Jean, Marie Lacoste-Gérin-Lajoie and Thérèse Casgrain—who campaigned for women's right to vote and their eligibility as candidates, which was obtained in 1940. The monument also honours Marie-Claire Kirkland, the first woman elected at the Parliament of Québec. The unveiling of the monument coincided with the 50th anniversary of the nomination of Ms. Kirkland as the first woman in Cabinet.

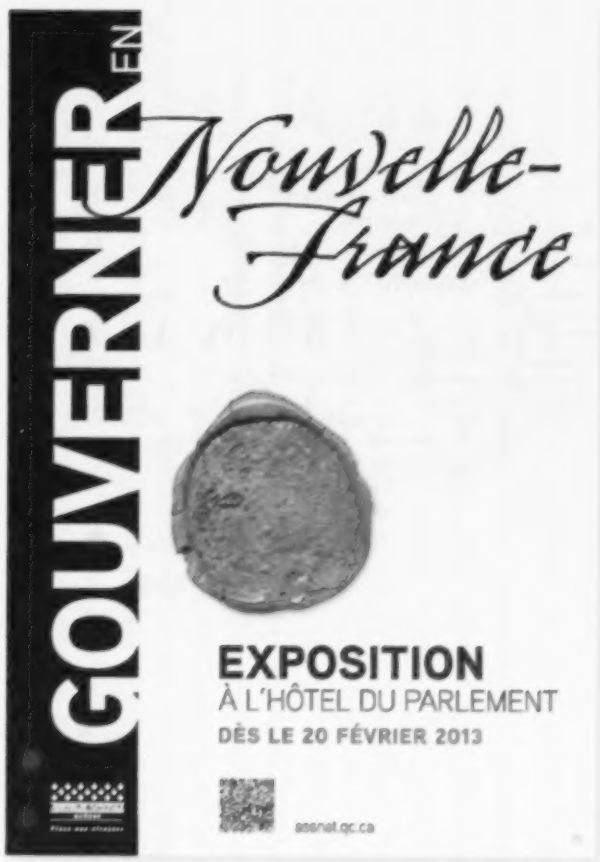
This work of art was created by Jules Lasalle, a seasoned sculptor who participated in nearly forty public arts displays, some of them in collaboration with other sculptors. The monument was the result of a partnership between the National Assembly, the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec and the Conseil du statut de la femme.

Messrs. François Legault and Jean-Marc Fournier, Ms. Pauline Marois and Mr. Jacques Chagnon during the unveiling of the monument, located by the Grande Allée wing of the Parliament Building

HIGHLIGHTS

Gouverner en Nouvelle-France Exhibit

To commemorate the 350th anniversary of the creation of the Sovereign Council, established in Québec City on 18 September 1663, the *Gouverner en Nouvelle-France* exhibit paints a portrait of the history of the political institutions during the French Regime. The exhibit highlights archival documents and heritage content from the National Assembly Collections. Unique objects from other museum collections are also on display. The President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, inaugurated this exhibit on 21 February at the Parliament Building.



THE WORK OF MEMBERS

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Mission

The National Assembly of Québec constitutes the foundation of legislative power. It is composed of the Members elected by the population of Québec in each of the 125 electoral divisions. The responsibility for debating and passing bills and the budget lies with the Members. They also debate all matters of public interest, most notably in standing committees. The duration of the collective term of office of these Members, which is called a "legislature", is provided for in the Constitution and may not exceed five years.

The three powers of the Québec State

LEGISLATIVE POWER	EXECUTIVE POWER	JUDICIAL POWER
Examines, discusses, amends and passes laws. Supervises the actions of the executive branch. Discusses matters of public interest.	Determines policies to guide the actions of the State. Administers and controls the State in accordance with the laws passed by the legislative branch.	Interprets the laws passed by the legislative branch. Decides whether a citizen or a group has acted in accordance with the law.
Parliament	**Government**	**Courts**

The roles of Members: legislators, controllers and intermediaries

At the National Assembly, the main role of Members is to participate in the legislative process. As legislators, they study, analyze and vote on bills. They exercise this role in several stages in both the National Assembly and the standing committees.

Members also have several means for controlling the actions of the Government, including the opportunity to question Ministers on current topics during Oral Questions and Answers and to examine the estimates of expenditure and the policy directions, activities and management of departments and agencies in committee. They have a notable role to play when standing committees hold public consultations on major issues of the day.

Lastly, Members play the role of intermediaries between citizens and the public administration. As representatives of the voters in their ridings, they defend their interests and explain their needs to the Government.

Changes in the composition of the Assembly

Resignations

Two Members resigned in 2012-2013:

Mr. Tony Tomassi
LaFontaine Electoral Division

First elected:
14 April 2003

Date of resignation:
3 May 2012

Office at time of resignation:
Member

Ms. Line Beauchamp
Bourassa-Sauvé Electoral Division

First elected:
30 November 1998

Date of resignation:
14 May 2012

Office at time of resignation:
Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports and Deputy Premier

Changes of political affiliation

Two Members changed political affiliation in 2012-2013:

Ms. Louise Beaudoin
Rosemont Electoral Division

First elected:
12 September 1994

Date of change of affiliation:
3 April 2012 (re-affiliation to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition that Ms. Beaudoin left on 6 June 2011 in order to sit as an independent Member)

Status:
From independent to Parti québécois

Mr. René Gauvreau
Groulx Electoral Division

First elected:
8 December 2008

Date of change of affiliation:
5 April 2012 (re-affiliation to the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition that Mr. Gauvreau left on 6 June 2011 in order to sit as an independent Member)

Status:
From independent to Parti québécois

By-elections

A by-election is held in an electoral division to fill a vacancy resulting from the resignation or death of an elected Member or from a legal decision. When a Member's seat in the National Assembly becomes vacant, the order or writ of election is forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer, not later than six months of the first day of vacancy.

Mr. Roland Richer

Mr. Marc Tanguay

Pursuant to a Government order on 9 May 2012, two by-elections were held on 11 June 2012. The first was held in the electoral division of Argenteuil, following the resignation of Mr. David Whissell, on 16 December 2011. Mr. Roland Richer, candidate for the Parti québécois, was then elected. The second by-election was held in the electoral division of LaFontaine, following the resignation of Mr. Tony Tomassi. Mr. Marc Tanguay, candidate for the Québec Liberal Party (QLP), was elected. However, Messrs. Richer and Tanguay could not integrate the Assembly before the end of the parliamentary proceedings of June 2012 and the dissolution of the 39th Legislature on 1 August. They have been re-elected in the general election of 4 September 2012.

Dissolution of the National Assembly

On August 1, 2012, the Cabinet adopted two orders-in-council on the recommendation of the Premier. The first directed the dissolution of the National Assembly and the summoning of a new Assembly for 16 October 2012. The second requested that the Chief Electoral Officer hold a general election on 4 September 2012. The Lieutenant-Governor then signed the royal proclamations giving effect to the orders-in-council, thus ending the 39th Legislature.

A new order-in-council was then issued on 26 September 2012 and a new royal proclamation was signed to set the date to summon a new Assembly for 16 October 2012.

Once the Assembly has been dissolved, the Members cease to perform their duties, but the Ministers remain in office so long as their successors have not been appointed. The President and the three Vice-Presidents also remain in office until they are replaced by the Assembly. As regards parliamentary proceedings, dissolution causes current procedural acts and bills that have not been passed to lapse.

At its dissolution, on 1 August 2012, the National Assembly was composed as follows:

COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY AT DISSOLUTION ON 1 AUGUST 2012		
PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS		
Government	Québec Liberal Party (QLP)	64
Official Opposition	Parti québécois (PQ)	47
INDEPENDENT MEMBERS		
	Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ)	9
	Option nationale (ON)	1
	Québec solidaire (QS)	1
	Other	2
		124
Note: 1 vacant seat		

Royal proclamations

CANADA

PROVINCE DE QUÉBEC

PROCLAMATION

The House Secretariat drafts royal proclamations. These proclamations must strictly adhere to the content of decrees issued by the Cabinet and bear the seal of the province of Québec.

The royal proclamations are first signed by the Secretary General of the Assembly, and then receive the Lieutenant Governor's signature under the seal.

A manuscript version of the royal proclamations is then drafted for publication in the *Québec Official Gazette*.

General election

Following the 4 September 2012 general election, Quebecers elected 125 members who represent them in the 40th Legislature.

Women's participation

Women's participation is one of the highlights of this legislature: Not only did a woman become Premier for the first time, but 41 other women were elected. It is almost one third (32.8%) of parliamentarians, which sets a new height in Québec's history. Finally, nine women are Cabinet Ministers, including the Premier, making up 37.5% of the Executive.

Mix of experience and new blood

The figures below reveal interesting facts about the members of the 40th legislature.

Age
Average age: 54
Age group between 40 and 59: 60.8% of the National Assembly
Age group between 20 and 39: 9.6 % of the National Assembly

Experience as a Member
Average experience: 6 years
First experience: 32%
Fourth term: 27.2%

Distribution of seats

As at 31 March 2013, the seats were distributed as follows, based on the political parties:

COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY AS AT 31 MARCH 2013		
PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS		
Government	Parti québécois (PQ)	54
Official Opposition	Québec Liberal Party (QLP)	50
Second Opposition Group	Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ)	19
INDEPENDENT MEMBERS		
	Québec solidaire (QS)	2
		125

The welcoming of Members

General elections mark the beginning of parliamentary life for newly elected candidates. Immediately following an election, the National Assembly sets a major initiative in motion to ensure Members adapt well to their new duties.

Following the general election of 4 September 2012, the National Assembly staff contacted Members to provide them with information they would need for the decisions they would be required to make in the first weeks of their term of office.

Starting 20 September 2012, parliamentarians, their spouses and their staff were invited to take part in hospitality activities and training sessions on:

- their work conditions;
- the computer equipment provided;
- the services provided to them by the National Assembly.

Contribution of the administrative staff in the establishment of the 40th Legislature

The establishment of a new legislature after a general election requires a remarkable contribution of the administrative staff in order to support the Members, whether they are defeated, elected for the first time or re-elected. This support includes:

- managing departures and arrivals among the political staff;
- managing constituency offices;
- organizing offices, providing computer equipment, telephony, cable and Internet services in the electoral division and at the Parliament Building;
- updating the website, the Intranet and promotional brochures;
- providing training sessions to new Members, and consulting services in connection with the elections to Members, as well as the political staff.

Planning this work began before the election, and the services were provided up to several months after polling day.

The swearing-in of Members

The taking of the oath by the Members is one of the most important events in parliamentary life. It is the gateway to the most valuable privilege a Member may enjoy, that of freedom of expression and its corollary, parliamentary immunity in the course of parliamentary proceedings at the National Assembly, and in committees. This is a solemn act, a commitment on the honour of the person who takes the oath to be loyal to the authority, respect the will of the people and act honestly and justly for the benefit of his or her fellow citizens.

After having taken these oaths before the Secretary General of the Assembly, the Members sign the Oath Book of the National Assembly. They then receive the Member's medal, on the back of which is inscribed the oath of loyalty to the people of Québec, as well as the Member's lapel pin. The Members of the 40th Legislature took their oaths at four different ceremonies held between 17 and 26 September 2012.

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 40th Legislature

The Assembly must elect a President at the beginning of the first sitting of the Legislature. Moreover, Standing Order 5.1 provides that no other business shall be taken at any meeting of the Assembly during which a new President and new Vice-Presidents are to be elected.

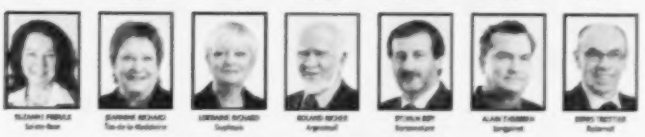
The election of a President and Vice-Presidents was held on 30 October 2012, at which time, Jacques Chagnon, Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis, was re-elected President of the National Assembly. As he was the only Member of the Assembly to submit a nomination paper to the presidency, he was declared elected by Pierre Paradis, the Member who conducted the election. Mr. Paradis was acting as longest-serving Member, pursuant to Standing Order 6.

Moreover, Carole Poirier, Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Claude Cousineau, Member for Bertrand and François Ouimet, Member for Marquette, were respectively elected first, second and third Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly.

The Members of the Presiding Body of the National Assembly. From left to right: Messrs. Claude Cousineau and Jacques Chagnon, Ms. Carole Poirier and Mr. François Ouimet.

Did you know?

The longest-serving Member is the most senior Member of the Assembly who does not stand candidate for the office of President, who is not a minister, nor the leader of a parliamentary group, nor a member of the Committee on the National Assembly.



ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

A place for every citizen

MEMBERS
OF THE 40TH LEGISLATURE
As at 31 March 2013

Members of the 40th Legislature as at 31 March 2013

PARLIAMENTARY WORK

The impacts of a minority government on parliamentary proceedings

On 4 September 2012, Québec elected a minority government for the second time since 1878, and for the second time since the Standing Orders were adopted in 1984, there are now three recognized parliamentary groups at the National Assembly.

According to the Standing Orders, in order to be recognized as a parliamentary group, a political party should have at least 12 elected Members or obtained at least 20% of the vote at the last general election. As such, with 54 elected Members, the Parti québécois is the parliamentary group forming the Government. The Québec Liberal Party, with 50 elected Members, forms the Official Opposition, while Coalition Avenir Québec, with 19 Members, forms the Second Opposition Group. Finally, two independent Members are affiliated to Québec solidaire.

As was the case with the minority government elected in 2007-2008, this situation required adjustments to the way parliamentary proceedings are organized and function. In order to reflect this situation, adjustments were made to the Standing Orders for the duration of the 40th Legislature.

Re-organization of the standing committees

One area that the Assembly had to address was the organization of the standing committees. The composition of the Assembly was not reflected in the committees because of the provisions of the Standing Orders in this regard. Members of the Committee on the National Assembly, consisting of representatives from each parliamentary group, have unanimously agreed on a new way to organize the committees. Each committee now has nine Members, including four from the group forming the Government, four from the Official Opposition and one from the Second Opposition Group.

Some adjustments to the allocation of committee chairs were also made. According to the rules in effect at the time, in addition to the Committee on Public Administration (CPA), whose chair is still a Member of the Official Opposition, three committees were to be chaired by Members of the Opposition (including one from the Second Opposition Group, if necessary), while the remaining six committees were to be chaired by Members of the Government.

However, under the current Legislature, five committees are chaired by Members of the Government, while four other committees (including the CPA) are chaired by Members of the Official Opposition and one is chaired by a Member of the Second Opposition Group.

New conditions for a quorum

Owing to the new composition of the National Assembly, temporary changes to the Standing Orders also include calling attention to the want of a quorum. In order for a Member to call attention to the want of a quorum, at least six Members of his parliamentary group must be present. When a committee is sitting, this number is reduced to three.

In addition, the presence of three parliamentary groups has led the President of the National Assembly to make decisions to ensure the proper conduct of the proceedings. The President's directive on the distribution of measures and speaking times will be addressed at a later point.

Schedule of sittings

The Standing Orders of the National Assembly establish a work calendar that is divided into two annual periods during which the Assembly meets: one in the spring and one in the fall. The spring sessional period runs from the second Tuesday in February, with 16 weeks of ordinary hours of meeting followed by two weeks of extended hours of meeting. The fall sessional period runs from the third Tuesday in September, with 10 weeks of ordinary hours of meeting followed by two weeks of extended hours of meeting. A total of five weeks is set aside for work in the electoral districts.

The following table shows the schedule of the National Assembly by time of year:

Period	Day	Time Routine Proceedings	Time Orders of the Day
During ordinary hours of meeting*	Tuesday	1:45 p.m. to 3 p.m.	3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday and Thursday	9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
During extended hours of meeting*	Tuesday	1:45 p.m. to 3 p.m.	3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday	9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Thursday	9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
	Friday	9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

* *The National Assembly may sit on Mondays on motion by the Government House Leader.*

Outside the periods provided for in the Standing Orders, the Assembly holds extraordinary sittings at the request of the Premier. This request is made to the President or, in the President's absence, to the Secretary General. The Assembly met once in an extraordinary sitting in 2012-2013. Standing committees may sit at any time during the year, from Monday to Friday, at the times set in the Standing Orders. The Assembly and committees may not sit during weeks set aside for work in electoral districts.

Work performed at the National Assembly

In 2012-2013, 68 sittings were held at the National Assembly and 353 in standing committee. The table below provides a breakdown:

	ASSEMBLY		Committees	
	Sittings	Hours	Sittings	Hours
April 2012	9	21 hr. 05 min.	58	236 hr. 57 min.
May	16[1]	74 hr. 12 min.	72	198 hr. 27 min.
June	8	22 hr. 58 min.	38	125 hr. 10 min.
July	0	0 hr.	0	0 hr.
August	0	0 hr.	0	0 hr.
General election on 4 September 2012				
October	2	2 hr. 13 min.	0	0 hr.
November	14	80 hr. 24 min.	47	90 hr. 51 min.
December	4	15 hr. 20 min.	23	52 hr. 06 min.
January 2013	0	0 hr. min	20	40 hr. 57 min.
February	6	16 hr. 27 min.	53	163 hr. 49 min.
March	9	35 hr. 58 min.	42	89 hr. 22 min.
TOTAL	68[2]	268 hr. 37 min.	353	997 hr. 39 min.

[1] *This figure includes an extraordinary sitting on 17 May 2012.*

Did you know?

During the past year, the Sittings Service compiled a file for 68 sittings of the Assembly for the President and his advisers. The *Order Paper and Notices* and the *Votes and Proceedings* for each sitting were drafted and published in both French and English. In addition, the Service translated periodic reports for publication in the parliamentary reviews. The Sittings Service is also responsible for the monitoring and the review process of petitions. Finally, it updates the *Standing Orders and Other Rules of Procedure*, if necessary. In January 2013, a provisional edition for the duration of the 40th Legislature was published. This edition includes the temporary changes made to the Standing Orders on 7 November 2012.

Conduct of a sitting at the National Assembly

An Assembly sitting consists of two distinct periods: Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS	ORDERS OF THE DAY
Routine Proceedings are divided into 11 items of business devoted to information provided by the Government to the National Assembly. The items of business under Routine Proceedings are considered in the following order: **Routine Proceedings** 0.1 Statements by Members 1. Statements by Ministers 2. Introduction of Bills 3. Presenting: a) Papers b) Reports from Committees c) Petitions 3.1 Oral Answers to Petitions 4. Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations 5. Oral Questions and Answers 6. Deferred Divisions 7. Motions Without Notice 8. Notices of Proceedings in Committees 9. Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly	Orders of the Day are devoted mainly to debates on bills at any stage of consideration. At this time, the National Assembly also takes into consideration all other substantive motions for debate. The five items of business for this period are considered in the following order: 1. Business Having Precedence 2. Urgent Debates 3. Debates on Reports from Committees 4. Other Business Standing on the Order Paper 5. Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

A closer look at Routine Proceedings

Statements by Members

This item of business, which signals the beginning of a sitting, is an opportunity for Members, including ministers, to make a one-minute statement on a matter close to their heart. Up to ten Members may make a statement per sitting.

Statements by Ministers

Ministers may make statements to the Assembly on any subject they deem appropriate, such as the announcement of a government policy or the Government's reaction to a particular event. There were two statements by Ministers in 2012-2013.

- 39th Legislature, 2nd session
  Statement by Mr. Robert Dutil, Minister of Public Security, regarding acts of violence and intimidation in relation to the tuition fee increase (17 April 2012)

- 40th Legislature, 1st Session
  Statement by Mr. Stéphane Bergeron, Minister of Public Security, on implementing a firearm registry (6 December 2012)

Introduction of Bills

Bills may be introduced during Routine Proceedings. Members do not discuss their content at this point; they simply allow bills to be submitted for consideration during subsequent stages of the legislative process. In all, 77 bills were introduced in the National Assembly in 2012-2013: 35 during the 39th Legislature and 42 during the 40th Legislature.

Presenting Papers

Between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013, 935 papers were tabled in the National Assembly. They are divided in the table below, based on the two legislatures.

	39TH LEGISLATURE, 2ND SESSION NUMBER OF PAPERS TABLED BETWEEN 1 APRIL AND 15 JUNE 2012 (no sittings between 16 June and 1 August 2012)		40TH LEGISLATURE, 1ST SESSION NUMBER OF PAPERS TABLED BETWEEN 30 OCTOBER 2012 AND 31 MARCH 2013	
TYPES OF DOCUMENTS:	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%
Report on a mission	1	0.2	1	0.2
Replies to written questions placed on the Order Paper	3	0.7	3	0.6
Reports from the Law Clerk	7	1.7	2	0.4
Decisions from the Office of the Assembly	4	0.9	15	2.9
Petitions	104	24.6	64	12.5
Replies to petitions	37	8.7	5	1.0
Committee reports	45	10.6	52	10.2
Annual reports (departments and agencies)	121	28.6	197	38.5
Other documents	101	23.9	173	33.8
Total	423	100	512	100

Presenting Petitions

The right of citizens to present a petition to the National Assembly is a fundamental right that is codified in the Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. Therefore, any Québec resident may address a petition to the National Assembly through a Member. The petition may be started by a person or an association of persons, and may be signed on paper or on-line. In the latter case, the petition must be launched and signed on the website of the National Assembly. A petition must be drafted in temperate, respectful language.

It must also comply with the following general rules:

- asks for the redress of a grievance that falls within the competence of the State;
- does not exceed 250 words, including a clear and accurate statement of the facts and a request for action;
- does not deal with a subject that is before a court or a quasi-judicial body or under investigation;
- does not use language that is forbidden or considered unparliamentary under Standing Order 35 of the National Assembly;
- contains the intervention sought on every sheet that bears signatures;
- contains the handwritten signature of all the petitioners and, if any, the group to which they belong.

The originator of a petition is responsible for asking a Member to present it. Any Member may present a petition except the President; however, Cabinet Members generally refrain from presenting petitions. The Member does not need to endorse the content of a petition to present it in the House.

STATISTICS ON PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013

	Paper Petitions	Electronic Petitions	Total Petitions Presented
39th Legislature	71 petitions 117,044 signatures	33 petitions 123,735 signatures	104 petitions 240,779 signatures
40th Legislature	38 petitions 74,458 signatures	26 petitions 74,081 signatures	64 petitions 148,539 signatures
Total 2012-2013	**109 petitions** **191,502 signatures**	**59 petitions** **197,816 signatures**	**168 petitions** **389,318 signatures**

The Government House Leader tabled 42 replies to petitions before the Assembly during 2012-2013. A reply may concern several petitions involving the same issue.

Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

A Member may call attention to any breach of the privileges or immunities of the Assembly or of its Members. With the permission of the President of the Assembly, a Member may also explain a matter that concerns him or her. For instance, a Member may wish to clarify the written record of one of his or her speeches, refute allegations made in a publication or remarks that have been misinterpreted. Two matters regarding personal explanations were raised in 2012-2013. The President deemed one of these inadmissible. No complaints of breach of privilege or contempt were submitted.

The directive from the Chair on the distribution of speaking measures

On 1 November 2012, the President of the Assembly gave an important directive on the conduct of Oral Questions and Answers, as well as on the distribution of measures and speaking times. As a result of the last general election, this directive takes into account the new composition of the Assembly, and consequently, of the three parliamentary groups and independent Members. Inspired by the minority Government of the 38th Legislature, the President listed some principles to allocate questions between opposition groups, including the prominent role traditionally played by the Official Opposition.

Over the years, certain mandatory broad principles were listed in the parliamentary jurisprudence. These principles include the following:

- All Members can ask questions to the Government, including Members of the Government;
- Questions are mainly reserved for Members in the opposition;
- The concept of parliamentary group constitutes a principle which must be combined with the first two;
- The Official Opposition's prominent role must be acknowledged;
- As is the case in the current Legislature, the President must take into account the presence of independent Members.

Questions for the 40th Legislature have been distributed based on various elements. This decision is available in the Journal des débats, 40th Legislature, 1st session (1 November 2012).

Oral Questions and Answers

Members have several means for controlling the actions of Government. Oral Questions and Answers is without doubt the most familiar item of business to citizens, owing to its media coverage. During this 45-minute period, Members can question Ministers on current matters of public interest that fall within their or the Government's purview.

Over 40 hours were devoted to Oral Questions and Answers in 2012-2013. Statistics are compiled based on the parliamentary calendar, and not on the fiscal year:

39th Legislature, 2nd Session, spring 2012:

Number of hours devoted to Oral Questions and Answers: 29 hr. 39 min.

Main questions: **461** Supplementary questions: **765**

40th Legislature, 1st session, fall 2012:

Number of hours devoted to Oral Questions and Answers: 10 hr. 47 min.

Main questions: **168** Supplementary questions: **287**

Deferred Divisions

Votes are taken in the Assembly either by a show of hands or by recorded division. The President may, at the request of the Government House Leader, defer any division until later on the same sitting day or until Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day. In 2012-2013, six deferred divisions were held.

Motions Without Notice

This stage of Routine Proceedings is set aside expressly to allow Members to discuss motions that have not first been placed on the Order Paper and Notices. Any Member may move a motion. A parliamentary group may not move more than one motion without notice per sitting, while an independent Member may move one motion per three sittings. In a single sitting, the sequence of presentation of motions without notice alternates between parliamentary groups.

Notices of Proceedings in Committees

This item of business enables the Government House Leader to provide the Assembly with the details on the proceedings being held in committee in pursuance of an order of the Assembly. The President also provides the Assembly with notices on the proceedings being held in committee pursuant to an order made on their own initiative. The notices must specify the following:

- Name of the committee;
- Date, hour and place of meeting;
- Purpose of the sitting.

Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

The last heading under Routine Proceedings allows the Government House Leader, on his own initiative or at the invitation of a Member, to communicate to the Assembly any information on the proceedings of the Assembly. Requests for information must solely concern items of business placed on the Order Paper and Notices. At this stage, the President may also be called upon to give the Assembly information regarding its proceedings.

Overall, 13 written questions were placed on the Order Paper and Notices: three during the 39th Legislature and 10 since the start of the 40th Legislature.

The Standing Orders allow this type of question in the following cases:

1) The issue does not require an immediate answer;

2) The answer sought requires some research.

A closer look at Orders of the Day

Business Having Precedence

As the name indicates, this business takes precedence over all other matters due to its importance or urgency. The opening speech of the session, delivered by the Premier, and the speeches by the leaders of the parliamentary groups or their representatives during the subsequent debate rank first among business having precedence. Other business having precedence includes the budget speech and want of confidence motions.

Urgent Debates

In pursuance of Standing Orders 88 and following, any Member may ask leave to debate a definite and important matter involving the responsibility of the Assembly that requires urgent consideration and cannot be, or could not have been, otherwise discussed. The Member in asking leave may briefly state the arguments in its favour. The President decides, without debate, whether or not the matter is proper to be discussed. If leave is granted, a two-hour limited debate shall arise on the matter submitted. The debate shall expire without question put.

In 2012-2013, no urgent debates were requested.

Debates on Reports from Committees

Committee reports that contain recommendations are entered on the Order Paper and Notices the day after they are tabled in the National Assembly and must be taken into consideration within 15 days. In 2012-2013, four debates on committee reports containing recommendations were held.

Other Business Standing on the Order Paper

At this time, the National Assembly goes through the various stages of studying bills, notably passage in principle, consideration of reports from committees that have examined bills and the passage of bills.

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

In 2012-2013, 12 motions were placed on the Order Paper under Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition. It should be noted that nine of these were by Members of the Official Opposition, one by the Second Opposition Group, and two by independent Members. Of the 12 motions, five were carried (all during the 40th Legislature) and seven were negatived.

Bills passed

From 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013, the National Assembly passed 38 bills (24 during the 39th Legislature and 14 during the 40th Legislature).

	39TH LEGISLATURE	40TH LEGISLATURE
Government bills:	21, including 81% passed unanimously	12, including 83% passed unanimously
Private Members' public bills:	none	none
Private Bills:	3, all passed unanimously	2, all passed unanimously

Stages in the consideration of a public bill

1. **Introduction:** The bill's sponsor (Member or minister) presents it to the Assembly for consideration. The bill can usually be consulted online in the list of bills under consideration within one hour of its introduction.
2. **Referral for consultation:** This optional stage allows Members to learn the needs and opinions of the persons or bodies affected by a bill. To this end, the Government House Leader moves that the bill be referred to a committee for consultation.
3. **Passage in principle:** At this stage, Members debate the principle of the bill before the Assembly, i.e. its timeliness, its intrinsic value or any other means to achieve the same goals.
4. **Committee stage:** The bill is studied in a standing committee or in a committee of the whole (which includes all 125 Members of the Assembly). The committee is chosen according to its area of competence; its Members examine each of the sections of the bill.
5. **Report stage:** The Assembly votes on the committee's report, which must be adopted for the process to continue.
6. **Passage:** This is the final stage before a bill is given assent.

The bill can be amended in stages 4, 5 and 6; its sponsor (Member or minister) or another Member may propose amendments to the bill. However, in the final stage (passage), only the bill's sponsor can propose amendments. All of the stages normally take place in separate sittings of the Assembly.

Lastly, after a bill is passed, it is given assent by the Lieutenant-Governor and becomes a law. The law may take effect the same day it is assented to or on another date mentioned in the bill or to be set by the Government.

The translation of Acts

Section 133 of the Constitutional Act, 1867, and section 7 of the Charter of the French Language provide for the obligation to print and publish bills in French and in English. All bills are therefore translated from French to English before they are introduced in the National Assembly, as are the amendments adopted subsequently in the standing committees and in the House. The translation of bills and amendments is vital to the legislative work of the Assembly and allows the citizens of Québec and Internet users from around the world to acquaint themselves with Québec's laws.

Standing committees

A considerable portion of parliamentary work is carried out in standing committees, where Members exercise their roles as legislators and controllers of the Government's actions. These committees bring together ten Members or so of the various political parties that make up the National Assembly and are responsible for examining any matter under their authority. In committee, the public can express its views during public consultations on bills or important societal issues. In committee, Members also closely examine bills and the Government's estimates of expenditure, as well as monitor the activities of departments and Government agencies. Furthermore, on their own initiative, they may elect to investigate any other matter under their authority.

Committee chair

The committee chair is a Member of a parliamentary group and is elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. He organizes and chairs the proceedings of the committee, takes part in the debates and has the right to vote.

Schedule of standing committee sittings

PERIOD	DAY	TIME
Outside National Assembly hours of meeting	Monday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m
	Tuesday to Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Friday	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
During ordinary hours of meeting[1]	Monday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Tuesday	10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. After Routine Proceedings to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday and Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. After Routine Proceedings to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Friday	9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
During extended hours of meeting[1]	Monday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Tuesday	10 a.m. to 12 p.m. After Routine Proceedings to 6 p.m. 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
	Wednesday and Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. After Routine Proceedings to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
	Friday	9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. After Routine Proceedings to 1 p.m.

[1] *Committees may not sit during Routine Proceedings.*

Committee vice-chair

The committee vice-chair is a Member of a parliamentary group other than that of the chair and is elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term. He assists the chair in his duties and replaces him when necessary.

Did you know?

There are eleven permanent standing committees, nine of which are sector-based. During the 40th Legislature, five committees are chaired by a Member from the group forming the Government, two committees by a Member of the group forming the Official Opposition, and one committee by a Member of the Second Opposition Group. A member of the Official Opposition chairs the Committee on Public Administration and the President of the National Assembly chairs the Committee on the National Assembly.

Temporary chair

A Member appointed by the President of the Assembly to preside over the debates of a committee, at the request of a committee chair or when the Assembly so directs in an order of reference. The Committee on the National Assembly approves a list of Members who may act in such capacity.

Temporary chairs as at 31 March 2013:

PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FORMING THE GOVERNMENT
BRETON, Daniel (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques)
CLAVEAU, Jean-Marie (Dubuc)
GADOURY-HAMELIN, Diane (Masson)
RICHARD, Jeannine (Îles-de-la-Madeleine)
TROTTIER, Denis (Roberval)
TRUDEL, Luc (Saint-Maurice)
PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FORMING THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION
DUBOURG, Emmanuel (Viau)
MORIN, Norbert (Côte-du-Sud)
OUELLETTE, Guy (Chomedey)
REID, Pierre (Orford)
SKLAVOUNOS, Gerry (Laurier-Dorion)
VALLÉE, Stéphanie (Gatineau)
GROUP FORMING THE SECOND OPPOSITION GROUP
CAIRE, Éric (La Peltrie)
MARTEL, Donald (Nicolet-Bécancour)

In pursuance of Standing Order 127, not later than the third day on which the Assembly meets after the election of the President at the opening of a Legislature, and from time to time thereafter as the necessity may arise, the Committee on the National Assembly must meet to select the Members to serve on the standing committees and to name the date on which they are first to meet. Thus, the current chairs and vice-chairs of the standing committees were elected by the Members of each committee during elections held on 7 November 2012.

Terms of reference and composition of the standing committees

The year 2012-2013 involved two different legislatures; the following list concerns the composition of the committees for each session.

COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Areas of competence: Standing Orders and Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings, coordination of the proceedings of the other committees.

	Members as at 1 August 2012:	Members as at 31 March 2013:
The President of the National Assembly:	Mr. Jacques Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis)	Mr. Jacques Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis)
The Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly:	Ms. Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) Mr. Francois Ouimet (Marquette) Mr. Francois Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest)	Ms. Carole Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) Mr. Claude Cousineau (Bertrand) Mr. Francois Ouimet (Marquette)
House leaders of the parliamentary groups:	Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier (Saint-Laurent) Mr. Stéphane Bédard (Chicoutimi)	Mr. Stéphane Bédard (Chicoutimi) Mr. Robert Dutil (Beauce-Sud) Mr. Gérard Deltell (Chauveau)
Whips of the parliamentary groups:	Ms. Lucie Charlebois (Soulanges) Ms. Nicole Léger (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	Mr. Marjolain Dufour (René-Lévesque) Mr. Laurent Lessard (Lotbinière-Frontenac) Mr. Daniel Ratthé (Blainville)
Committee chairs:	Mr. Claude Bachand (Arthabaska) Mr. Raymond Bernier (Montmorency) Ms. Danielle Doyer (Matapedia) Mr. Bernard Drainville (Marie-Victorin) Ms. Marie Malavoy (Taillon) Mr. Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin) Mr. Guy Ouellette (Chomedey) Mr. Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi) Mr. Sylvain Simard (Richelieu) Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion)	Ms. Marie Bouillé (Iberville) Mr. Lawrence Bergman (D'Arcy-McGee) Ms. Noëlla Champagne (Champlain) Mr. Luc Ferland (Ungava) Mr. Sam Hamad (Louis-Hébert) Ms. Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) Mr. Yvon Marcoux (Vaudreuil) Mr. Irvin Pelletier (Rimouski) Mr. Marc Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) Ms. Lorraine Richard (Duplessis)

The importance of parliamentary control (all figures as at 31 March 2013)

Parliamentary control activities represent close to 38.2% of the work carried out in committee, as the following numbers indicate:

	Hours	Percentage
Government estimates of expenditure	347 hr. 58 min.	34,9%
Interpellations	17 hr. 54 min.	1,8%
Surveillance of agencies and liability	0 hr. 39 min.	0,1%
Accountability	14 hr. 17 min.	1,4%
Subtotal	380 hr. 48 min.	38,2%
Consideration of public bills	485 hr. 50 min.	48,7%
Consideration of private bills	5 hr. 22 min.	0,5%
Other orders of the National Assembly	57 hr. 05 min.	5,7%
Delegated legislation	1 hr. 17 min.	0,1%
Other mandates under the Standing Orders or under an Act	32 hr. 57 min.	3,3%
Orders of initiative	0 hr. 50 min.	0,1%
Consideration of petitions	1 hr. 43 min.	0,2%
General organization and election of chairs and vice-chairs	31 hr. 47 min.	3,2%
TOTAL	997 hr. 39 min.	100%

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Areas of competence: Examination of financial commitments, accountability and the Auditor General.

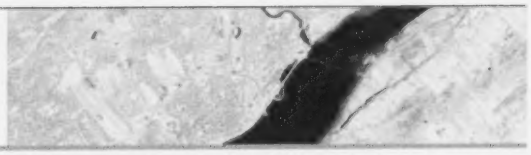
	Members as at 1 August 2012:	Members as at 31 March 2013:
Chair:	Mr. Sylvain Simard (Richelieu) PQ	Mr. Yvon Marcoux (Vaudreuil) QLP
Vice-chair:	Mr. Yvon Marcoux (Vaudreuil) QLP	Mr. Serge Cardin (Sherbrooke) PQ Mr. François Bonnardel (Granby) CAQ
Members:	QLP Mr. André Drolet (Jean-Lesage) Mr. Henri-François Gautrin (Verdun) Mr. Patrick Huot (Vanier) Mr. Michel Matte (Portneuf) Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford) PQ Mr. Pascal Bérubé (Matane) Ms. Noëlla Champagne (Champlain) Mr. Irvin Pelletier (Rimouski)	PQ Mr. Gilles Chapadeau (Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue) Mr. Daniel Goyer (Deux-Montagnes) Ms. Suzanne Proulx (Sainte-Rose) QLP Ms. Nicole Ménard (Laporte) Mr. Pierre Moreau (Châteauguay) Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford)

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Areas of competence: Agriculture, fisheries, food, energy and natural resources.

	Members as at 1 August 2012:	Members as at 31 March 2013:
Chair:	Mr. Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi) QLP	Ms. Marie Bouillé (Iberville) PQ
Vice-chair:	Mr. Claude Pinard (Saint-Maurice) PQ	Mr. Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi) QLP
Members:	QLP Mr. Daniel Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue) Mr. Jean D'Amour (Rivière-du-Loup) Ms. Johanne Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton) Ms. Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac) Mr. Georges Mamelonet (Gaspé) PQ Ms. Martine Ouellet (Vachon) Mr. André Simard (Kamouraska-Témiscouata) Mr. Denis Trottier (Roberval)	PQ Mr. Scott McKay (Repentigny) Mr. Denis Trottier (Roberval) Mr. Luc Trudel (Saint-Maurice) QLP Mr. Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon) Mr. Jean D'Amour (Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata) Mr. Norbert Morin (Côte-du-Sud) CAQ Mr. Donald Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour)

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN



Areas of competence: Land use planning and development, municipal affairs, housing, sports and recreation, local and regional community development.

	Members as at 1 August 2012:	Members as at 31 March 2013:
Chair:	Ms. Marie Malavoy (Taillon) PQ	Ms. Noëlla Champagne (Champlain) PQ
Vice-chair:	Mr. Norbert Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet) QLP	Ms. Julie Boulet (Laviolette) QLP
Members:	QLP Mr. Damien Arsenault (Bonaventure) Mr. Marc Carrière (Chapleau) Mr. Jean-Paul Diamond (Maskinongé) Ms. Johanne Gonthier (Mégantic-Compton) Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance-Viger) PQ Ms. Noëlla Champagne (Champlain) Mr. Guillaume Tremblay (Masson) Mr. André Villeneuve (Berthier)	PQ Mr. Daniel Breton (Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques) Ms. Diane Gadoury-Hamelin (Masson) Mr. André Villeneuve (Berthier) QLP Mr. Marc Carrière (Chapleau) Mr. Alexandre Iracà (Papineau) Mr. Jean Rousselle (Vimont) CAQ Mr. André Spénard (Beauce-Nord)

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Areas of competence: Culture, education, vocational training, higher education and communications.

	Members as at 1 August 2012:	Members as at 31 March 2013:
Chair:	Mr. Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin) QLP	Ms. Lorraine Richard (Duplessis) PQ
Vice-chair:	Mr. Yves-François Blanchet (Drummond) PQ	Ms. Dominique Vien (Bellechasse) QLP
Members:	QLP Ms. Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles) Mr. Gilles Lehouillier (Lévis) Mr. Michel Pigeon (Charlesbourg) Ms. Danielle St-Amand (Trois-Rivières) Ms. Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau) PQ Mr. Sylvain Gaudreault (Jonquière) Mr. Sylvain Pagé (Labelle) Mr. Gilles Robert (Prévost)	PQ Mr. Daniel Breton (Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques) Mr. Émilien Pelletier (Saint-Hyacinthe) Mr. Sylvain Roy (Bonaventure) QLP Ms. Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles) Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion) Mr. Marc Tanguay (LaFontaine) CAQ Ms. Nathalie Roy (Montarville)

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Areas of competence: Industry, trade, tourism, labour, manpower, science, technology and income security.

	Members as at 1 August 2012:	Members as at 31 March 2013:
Chair:	Mr. Guy Ouellette (Chomedey) QLP	Mr. Sam Hamad (Louis-Hébert) QLP
Vice-chair:	Mr. Stéphane Bergeron (Verchères) PQ	Mr. Guy Leclair (Beauharnois) PQ
Members:	QLP Mr. Claude Bachand (Arthabaska) Mr. Jean D'Amour (Rivière-du-Loup) Mr. André Drolet (Jean-Lesage) Ms. Maryse Gaudreault (Hull) Mr. Georges Mamelonet (Gaspé) PQ Mr. Pascal Bérubé (Matane) Ms. Lorraine Richard (Duplessis) Mr. Dave Turcotte (Saint-Jean)	PQ Mr. Jean-Marie Claveau (Dubuc) Ms. Jeannine Richard (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) Mr. André Villeneuve (Berthier) QLP Mr. Pierre Arcand (Mont-Royal) Mr. Guy Ouellette (Chomedey) Ms. Kathleen Weil (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) CAQ Mr. Stéphane Le Bouyonnec (La Prairie)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Areas of competence: Finance, budget, government administration, public service, revenue, services, supply and pension plans.

	Members as at 1 August 2012:	Members as at 31 March 2013:
Chair:	Mr. Claude Bachand (Arthabaska) QLP	Mr. Irvin Pelletier (Rimouski) PQ
Vice-chair:	Ms. Agnès Maltais (Taschereau) PQ	Mr. Henri-François Gautrin (Verdun) QLP
Members:	QLP Mr. Vincent Auclair (Vimont) Mr. Raymond Bernier (Montmorency) Mr. Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon) Mr. Marc Carrière (Chapleau) Mr. Emmanuel Dubourg (Viau) PQ Mr. Luc Ferland (Ungava) Mr. Nicolas Marceau (Rousseau) Mr. Irvin Pelletier (Rimouski)	PQ Mr. Gilles Chapadeau (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) Mr. Jean-Marie Claveau (Dubuc) Mr. Alain Therrien (Sanguinet) QLP Mr. Raymond Bachand (Outremont) Mr. André Drolet (Jean-Lesage) Mr. Emmanuel Dubourg (Viau) CAQ Mr. Christian Dubé (Lévis)

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Areas of competence: Chairmanship of the Conseil exécutif, justice, public security, the Constitution, aboriginal affairs, international and intergovernmental relations.

	Members as at 1 August 2012:	Members as at 31 March 2013:
Chair:	Mr. Bernard Drainville (Marie-Victorin) PQ	Mr. Luc Ferland (Ungava) PQ
Vice-chair:	Ms. Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau) QLP	Mr. Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin) QLP
Members:	QLP Mr. Vincent Auclair (Vimont) Mr. Daniel Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) Mr. Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) Mr. Michel Matte (Portneuf) Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion) PQ Ms. Denise Beaudoin (Mirabel) Mr. Alexandre Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean) Ms. Véronique Hivon (Joliette)	PQ Mr. Serge Cardin (Sherbrooke) Mr. Guy Leclair (Beauharnois) Mr. Alain Therrien (Sanguinet) QLP Mr. Gilles Ouimet (Fabre) Mr. Robert Poëti (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) Ms. Christine St-Pierre (Acadie) CAQ Mr. Jacques Duchesneau (Saint-Jérôme)

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Areas of competence: Citizen relations, cultural communities, immigration, status of women, family, seniors, youth and consumer protection.

	Members as at 1 August 2012:	Members as at 31 March 2013:
Chair:	Mr. Raymond Bernier (Montmorency) QLP	Mr. Marc Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) CAQ
Vice-chair:	Mr. Claude Cousineau (Bertrand) PQ	Mr. Émilien Pelletier (Saint-Hyacinthe) PQ
Members:	QLP Mr. Damien Arsenault (Bonaventure) Mr. Emmanuel Dubourg (Viau) Mr. Gilles Lehouillier (Lévis) Mr. Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin) Mr. Michel Pigeon (Charlesbourg) PQ Mr. Yves-François Blanchet (Drummond) Ms. Marie Bouillé (Iberville) Mr. Guy Leclair (Beauharnois)	PQ Mr. Léo Bureau-Blouin (Laval-des-Rapides) Ms. Noëlla Champagne (Champlain) Mr. Roland Richer (Argenteuil) QLP Ms. Marguerite Blais (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) Ms. Maryse Gaudreault (Hull) Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance–Viger) Ms. Danielle St-Amand (Trois-Rivières)

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Areas of competence: Health, social and community services.

	Members as at 1 August 2012:	Members as at 31 March 2013:
Chair:	Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion) QLP	Mr. Lawrence Bergman (D'Arcy-McGee) QLP
Vice-chair:	Mr. Marjolain Dufour (René-Lévesque) PQ	Ms. Suzanne Proulx (Sainte-Rose) PQ
Members:	QLP Ms. Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles) Mr. Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) Ms. Maryse Gaudreault (Hull) Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance-Viger) Ms. Danielle St-Amand (Trois-Rivières) PQ Mr. Émilien Pelletier (Saint-Hyacinthe) Ms. Carole Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) Mr. Mathieu Traversy (Terrebonne)	PQ Ms. Diane Gadoury-Hamelin (Masson) Mr. Roland Richer (Argenteuil) Mr. Sylvain Roy (Bonaventure) QLP Mr. Yves Bolduc (Jean-Talon) Ms. Rita de Santis (Bourassa-Sauvé) Ms. Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau) CAQ Ms. Hélène Daneault (Groulx)

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Areas of competence: Transportation, the environment, wildlife and parks.

	Members as at 1 August 2012:	Members as at 31 March 2013:
Chair:	Ms. Danielle Doyer (Matapédia) PQ	Ms. Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) QLP
Vice-chair:	Ms. Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac) QLP	Ms. Denise Beaudoin (Mirabel) PQ
Members:	QLP Mr. Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon) Mr. Jean-Paul Diamond (Maskinongé) Mr. Patrick Huot (Vanier) Mr. Guy Ouellette (Chomedey) Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford) PQ Mr. Étienne-Alexis Boucher (Johnson) Mr. Nicolas Girard (Gouin) Mr. Scott McKay (L'Assomption)	PQ Mr. Luc Ferland (Ungava) Mr. Scott McKay (Repentigny) Ms. Jeannine Richard (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) QLP Mr. Ghislain Bolduc (Mégantic) Ms. Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac) Ms. Karine Vallières (Richmond) CAQ Mr. Éric Caire (La Peltrie)

Did you know?

Five Select Committees were established by the National Assembly since the adoption of the current Standing Orders, in 1984. They are the Select Committee on Vocational Training (1995), the Select Committee on a New Management Framework for Government Administration (1999), the Select Committee on the Future Site of the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (2005), the Select Committee on the Election Act (2005), and the Select Committee on Dying with Dignity (2011-2012).

The orders of the standing committees

The sector-based standing committees may carry out three types of mandates: orders of reference, statutory orders and orders of initiative.

Orders of reference

Clause-by-clause consideration of bills

The standing committees examined 37 bills of which a complete list may be consulted in the appendix. For all bills submitted for consideration by the standing committees, 1,881 sections were examined and 633 amendments were adopted out of the 913 amendments introduced.

GENERAL CONSULTATIONS

General consultations are open to the population at large. They must be preceded by a public notice published in selected newspapers and in the Québec Official Gazette, inviting any individuals and organizations interested in the matter under consideration to submit a brief to the committee. Citizens may also send a request to be heard without submitting a brief. Public hearings are then held before the committee, with a period not exceeding 45 minutes set aside for all requests without a brief to be heard.

SPECIAL CONSULTATIONS

Special consultations are limited to individuals and organizations chosen by the committee or by the Assembly owing to their knowledge or expertise regarding the matter under consideration.

Public consultations

In 2012-2013, 287 groups and individuals came before the committees to voice their opinions on various matters within the framework of general and special consultations. The standing committees received 287 briefs. These consultations enabled the parliamentarians to properly assess the issues arising from matters under consideration.

Did you know?

At the request of the National Assembly, the committees examine bills, the estimates of expenditure and any other matter that may be referred to them. These are known as "orders of reference".

For instance, the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources initiated a general consultation on the *Livre vert pour une politique bioalimentaire: Donner le goût du Québec* (Green Paper on a bio-food policy: a sweet taste from Québec). The 10 public hearings, which began in May 2012, ended with the dissolution of the Assembly, in August 2012. Two hundred briefs were submitted for this hearing.

In December 2012, following the introduction of Bill 14, *An Act to amend the Charter of the French language, the Charter of human rights and freedoms and other legislative provisions*, the Committee on Culture and Education held a general consultation. In all, 85 briefs were submitted and 7 requests to be heard without a brief were made. In February 2013, an online consultation on the matter was also accessible to Internet users. As at 31 March 2013, more than 3,000 people responded. In March, the Committee undertook public hearings which will continue during the parliamentary proceedings of spring 2013.

For its part, the Committee on Institutions was directed to hold a general consultation on the five-year report of the Commission d'accès à l'information entitled *Technologies et vie privée à l'heure des choix de société* (Technology and Privacy: time to make societal choices). This consultation was launched at the end of February 2013 with hearings beginning in April 2013.

As for special consultations, a dozen were held in the spring of 2012 and involved seven of the ten sectorial committees. Most of these consultations focused on the ongoing consideration of bills. For instance, the Committee on Institutions held three special consultations on Bill 61, *Chartered Professional Accountants Act*, Bill 64, *An Act to promote access to justice in family matters*, and Bill 75, *An Act to confer certain powers of inspection and seizure*. These three bills were passed before the end of the spring 2012 sessional period.

For its part, the Committee on Transportation and the Environment held three special consultations. Among the bills examined, Bill 57 was the result of the assessment of photo radar devices and red light camera systems. This Bill came into force on the day of its sanction, 6 June 2012. Two other special consultations were held in consideration of Bill 48, *An Act concerning the environmental inspection of motor vehicles*, and Bill 71, *An Act respecting compensation measures for the carrying out of projects affecting wetlands or bodies of water*. These two bills were also been passed by the Assembly before the end of the spring 2012 sessional period.

After special consultations and public hearings, the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain examined Bill 8, *An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs*, and Bill 10, *An Act to provide for the provisional relief from office of an elected municipal officer*. Both were introduced in November 2012; Bill 8 was adopted in December 2012 and Bill 10, in March 2013.

Since the beginning of the current Legislature, from November 2012 to the end of March 2013, about ten special consultations on as many bills were held over a period of twenty days of hearings.

Examination of the estimates of expenditure

During the last fiscal year, the standing committees examined the estimates of expenditure of the Government for the years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014:

- Examination of the estimates of expenditure of the 2nd session of the 39th Legislature from 16 to 27 April 2012;
- Examination of the estimates of expenditure of the 1st session of the 40th Legislature from 4 to 19 February 2013.

By the conclusion of their proceedings, in the first case, the committees had devoted 196 hours and 26 minutes to the examination of the estimates of expenditure granted to the departments and agencies, and, in the second case, 151 hours and 32 minutes.

Interpellations

In 2012, during the 2nd Session of the 39th Legislature, the following interpellations were made:
LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY - Interpellation by the Member for Saint-Jean to the Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity on the following subject: Improving the living conditions of Quebecers
PUBLIC FINANCE - Interpellation by the Member for Nicolet-Yamaska to the Minister of Finance on the following subject: The economic costs for Québec to be a province of Canada
INSTITUTIONS - Interpellation by the Member for Marie-Victorin to the Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs and the Canadian Francophonie on the following subject: Conservative majority government, one year later: consequences for Québec
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - Interpellation by the Member for Taschereau to the Minister of Health and Social Services on the following subject: The health services tax in Québec

Did you know?

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, every Member sitting in opposition may interpellate a minister on a matter of general interest for which he is officially responsible. The interpellation is held at a meeting of the appropriate standing committee, on Friday morning, from 10 a.m. to noon. One interpellation may be held each week during the periods in which the National Assembly ordinarily meets (excepting during intensive session, when none may be held). In 2012–2013, the Government's ministers were interpellated nine times in the standing committees: four times in the spring of 2012 and five times from November 2012 to March 2013. A list of these interpellations is provided below.

In 2012-2013, during the 1st session of the 40th Legislature, the following interpellations were made:
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, FOOD, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES · Interpellation by the Member for Brome-Missisquoi to the Minister of Natural Resources on the following subject: The abandonment of natural resources by the PQ Government · Interpellation by the Member for Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata to the Minister of Natural Resources on the following subject: The future of the Northern Plan under a PQ Government
CULTURE AND EDUCATION · Interpellation by the Member for Laurier-Dorion to the Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology on the following subject: The economic contribution of our academic institutions in a climate of underfunding
LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY · Interpellation by the Member for La Prairie to the Minister for Industrial Policy and the Banque de développement économique du Québec on the following subject: The lack of vision of the Government's industrial policy and its "place mat consultation"
PUBLIC FINANCE · Interpellation by the Member for Louis-Hébert to the Minister responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on the following subject: The impacts of the PQ Government's decisions on the return to a balanced budget

Other matters that may be referred by the Assembly

On 13 November 2012, the National Assembly carried a motion regarding the examination of the impact study on decommissioning the Gentilly-2 nuclear power plant and the plan for economic diversification of the Centre-du-Québec and Mauricie regions. As part of this examination, the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources held special consultations and public hearings with 14 agencies on 29-30 January 2013. Following a new motion carried by the Assembly on 12 March 2013, a report with observations, conclusions and recommendations was tabled in March 2013.

In addition, in November 2012, the Assembly carried a motion to shed light on the events of 24 October, concerning the action taken by the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks with respect to the independent public body known as the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE). The order was referred to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, which held hearings in February and March 2013. These hearings continued in April.

Statutory orders and orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Statutory orders

On 6 December 2012, pursuant to section 76 of the Act to eliminate union placement and improve the operation of the construction industry, the Assembly passed a motion in order for the Committee on Labour and the Economy to examine the Regulation respecting the labour-referral service licence in the construction industry. As the motion asserted, the Committee carried out this examination on the same day and tabled its report on the following day.

In 2012, during the 2nd Session of the 39th Legislature, the statutory orders that were carried out or that had not been completed were the following:
PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN · Examination of the Report on the implementation of the Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act
LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY · Examination of the report tabled by the Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity, in pursuance of section 60 of the Act to combat poverty and social exclusion · Examination of Investissement Québec's strategic plan
PUBLIC FINANCE · Examination of the financial statements and of the activity report of the Institut de la statistique du Québec
INSTITUTIONS · Examination of the annual reports from 2007-2008 to 2009-2010 of the Commission d'accès à l'information · Examination of the annual reports from 2007-2008 to 2009-2010 of the Lobbyists Commissioner · Examination of the 2011 five-year report of the Commission d'accès à l'information
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES · Examination of the annual management reports of the regional boards and of the health and social services agencies · Examination of the evaluation report on the experimental Québec Health Record project in the territory of the health and social services agency for the Capitale-Nationale region · Examination of the report on the appraisal of the performance of the health and social services for 2009 and 2010 · Examination of the report on the implementation of the Tobacco Act 2005-2010

Did you know?

Did you know? Some orders of the standing committees come from an act or regulation, others from the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

In 2012-2013, during the 1st Session of the 40th Legislature, the statutory orders that were carried out or that had not been completed were the following:
LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY - Hearing of the chief executive officer of the Conseil de gestion de l'assurance parentale on her management of the Fonds d'assurance parentale, and examination of the report on the implementation of the *Act respecting parental insurance* - Examination of the Regulation respecting the labour-referral service licence in the construction industry, pursuant to section 76 of the *Act to eliminate union placement and improve the operation of the construction industry*
INSTITUTIONS - Examination of the five-year report of the Lobbyists Commissioner entitled *Proposed amendments to the Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act*
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - Examination of the annual management reports of the regional boards and of the health and social services agencies

Accountability and the surveillance of agencies

Certain standing committees also carried out orders of accountability or surveillance in order to examine the activities, policy directions and management of public bodies falling within their areas of competence in accordance with Standing Orders 293.1 and 294.

Thus, on 21 February 2012, the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain heard the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission municipale du Québec as part of an order of surveillance of agency. During this hearing, the members of the Committee had the opportunity to better understand the operations, results and challenges of the Commission municipale du Québec. In their report tabled in June, the members submitted their conclusions and recommendations.

In 2012, during the 2nd Session of the 39th Legislature, the orders of accountability and of surveillance that were carried out or that had not been completed were the following:
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES - La Financière agricole du Québec
PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN - Commission municipale du Québec
PUBLIC FINANCE - Institut de la statistique du Québec - Commission administrative des régimes de retraite et d'assurances - Bureau de décision et de révision
INSTITUTIONS - Hearing with the Public Protector
CITIZENS RELATIONS - Public Curator
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - Office des personnes handicapées du Québec - Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec - Comité de révision de l'assurance maladie - Health and Welfare Commissioner
TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT - Kativik Environmental Quality Commission - Agence métropolitaine de transports - Société québécoise de récupération et de recyclage

In 2012-2013, during the 1st Session of the 40th Legislature, the orders of accountability and of surveillance that were carried out or that had not been completed were the following:
CITIZEN RELATIONS · Public Curator

ORDERS OF INITIATIVE

Committees may take the initiative to examine draft regulations and regulations, policy directions, the activities and management of public agencies and departments, petitions and any other matter of public interest.

Orders of initiative

In 2012-2013, the members of the various committees took the initiative to examine issues affecting numerous areas of activity. Organizing such mandates requires many meetings during which members prepare consultation and background papers, hear experts, plan public hearings and draft final reports that may contain observations, conclusions and recommendations for the Government.

No reports on orders of initiative were produced during the first part of the fiscal year, namely the 2nd session of the 39th Legislature. As for the 1st session of the 40th Legislature, no orders had yet been passed as at 31 March 2013.

In 2012, during the 2nd Session of the 39th Legislature, the orders of initiative that were carried out or that had not been completed were the following:
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES · Oil supply security
CULTURE AND EDUCATION · The improvement of learning opportunities in the field of physical activity, sports and culture to create a sense of belonging

Examination of petitions

On 19 March 2013, in pursuance of the recent provisions of the Standing Orders, the members of the Committee on Labour and the Economy adopted an order to examine petitions concerning the increase of social assistance benefits paid to people with disabilities. Following the decision of the Committee, the originators of these petitions had the opportunity to express their views in public hearings held in April 2013.

For its part, on 14 March 2013, the Committee on Health and Social Services unanimously decided to examine a petition regarding a bill authorizing a handicapped person to be accompanied by a

guide dog at all times. Then, on 28 March 2013, the Committee decided to examine a second petition regarding drinking water fluoridation. The examination of these two petitions continued during the spring sessional period; in both cases, hearings were scheduled for April 2013.

In 2012-2013, during the 2nd Session of the 39th legislature, the orders concerning the examination of petitions that were carried out or that had not been completed were the following:
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES · The services offered to individuals with autism or suffering from pervasive developmental disorder (PDD)

In 2012-2013, during the 1st Session of the 40th Legislature, the orders concerning the examination of petitions that were carried out or that had not been completed were the following:
LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY: · The increase of social assistance allowance paid to persons with disabilities
INSTITUTIONS: · The amendment of laws to govern adoption in Québec
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES · An Act to authorize a disabled person to always be accompanied by a guide dog · Drinking water fluoridation

The Committee on Public Administration

The Committee on Public Administration calls public administrators to account on their management. It carries out this mandate by inviting the deputy Ministers and the chief executive officers of public bodies to come before it to answer the questions of parliamentarians on their annual management reports or to discuss the observations contained in the Auditor General's reports.

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, the Committee must also examine all financial commitments equal to or exceeding $25,000 granted to departments and public agencies whose estimates of expenditure are voted on by the Assembly. In scrutinizing these expenditures, the Committee ensures itself of their advisability, the observance of government rules and standards governing the granting of contracts and subsidies and the equitable allocation of public funds.

In June 2012, the Committee on Public Administration tabled in the National Assembly its 28th report on the accountability of deputy Ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies. This report contains nine unanimous recommendations. Two of these recommendations concerned the state of progress and the implementation of the Ministry of Families and Seniors action plan. Three other recommendations made to the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks concerned greater ministry coordination between the action plans of the ministry and agencies subject to the Act, a better definition and selection of indicators of sustainable development, and the review of sustainable development strategies.

Following the observations by the Auditor General, a public hearing regarding the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec was also held. In their two recommendations, the members of the Committee insisted on a rigorous monitoring of the implementation of the measures provided for in the action plan in order to counter the risk of fraud or improper assessment of compensation to be paid.

In addition, the members of the Committee, concerned about the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor's ability to achieve all of its projects, have called on its leaders to give them indicators to allow the Secrétariat to follow-up of its main actions.

The Committee on Public Administration holds deliberative meetings regularly. Since the beginning of the present Legislature, meetings were held in order to organize the audit by the Auditor General on its 2011-2012 annual management report, as well as hearings on:

- professional services contracting for information processing;
- air quality in elementary schools;
- accommodation services;
- maintenance shortfall of public infrastructure;
- Fonds pour le développement du sport et de l'activité physique (Sports and physical activity development fund);
- management of the Tribunal administratif du Québec;
- administrative management of the Corporation d'urgences-santé;
- administrative management of the Ministry of Finance.

Reports and discussion papers of the standing committees

In 2012-2013, the standing committees produced four reports and discussion papers that were tabled in the National Assembly. These reports concern mandates that were carried out in pursuance of various provisions of the Standing Orders. The following is a list of the reports containing observations, conclusions and/or recommendations, and which are available on the National Assembly website.

Committee	Title of document	Number of recommendations
ORDER OF THE ASSEMBLY		
Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources	Continued drafting of the report in response to the specific consultation held in the National Assembly on the 29-30 January 2013 impact study about decommissioning the Gentilly-2 nuclear power plant and the plan for economic diversification of Centre-du-Québec and Mauricie	8
STATUTORY ORDER		
Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources	Examination of the five-year review of the status of the forests of the domain of the State and of the results achieved in sustainable management of the forest	2
SURVEILLANCE OF AGENCIES		
Planning and the Public Domain	Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the Commission municipale du Québec	1
ORDERS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 117.6 (ACCOUNTABILITY)		
Public Administration	Twenty-eighth report on the accountability of deputy ministers and leaders of public bodies	9

Did you know?

The Parliamentary Proceedings Directorate issues an annual statistical report on the work of the standing committees. The 2012-2013 report as well as all the briefs and other documents filed in the standing committees may be consulted on the National Assembly website.

Persons appointed by the National Assembly

Five persons are appointed to public office by the Assembly, a procedure which helps ensure that they remain independent and impartial in the performance of their duties. These persons, who are accountable to the National Assembly, are the Ethics Commissioner, the Lobbyists Commissioner, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Public Protector and the Auditor General.

The **Ethics Commissioner** is responsible for the administration of the Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly. He provides Members with advisory opinions containing any recommendations on any matter concerning Members' obligations under the Code. He conducts inquiries, on his own initiative or in response to a request from a Member, to determine whether the Code may have been violated by a Member or a Minister, and reports to the Assembly. Within three years after the coming into force of the Code and every five years thereafter, he must report on the carrying out of the Code and the advisability of amending it. He is appointed for a five-year renewable term office. The *Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of National Assembly* is now available on the website of Publications du Québec and of the Ethics Commissioner.

The **Lobbyists Commissioner** is tasked with monitoring and controlling the lobbying of holders of public office. The Commissioner develops a code of conduct for lobbyists and conducts investigations and examinations of all violations of the Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act or the code of conduct. He is appointed for a five-year renewable term.

The **Chief Electoral Officer** oversees the application of the Election Act, the Referendum Act and part of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities and also chairs the Commission de la représentation électorale, which is charged with drawing up Québec's electoral boundaries. The Chief Electoral Officer must be chosen from among the electors. He is appointed for a seven-year renewable term.

The **Public Protector** prevents and corrects errors or injustices committed against any individual or group of individuals in connection with a Québec government ministry or agency. He also intervenes in cases where citizens feel their rights have been breached or ignored by an establishment in the health and social services network. He is appointed for a five-year renewable term.

The **Auditor General** fosters, through audit, parliamentary control over public funds and other public property, and informs Members on how the Government and its agencies and enterprises manage public funds. He is appointed for ten years.

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

In democratic systems based on the separation of powers, parliaments conduct their international relations independently and in respect of political pluralism.

The debates taking place at the National Assembly – in which Members have to participate – sometimes involve decisions taken outside our borders that impact the populations represented by the Members. As such, it is crucial to enable them, through interparliamentary and international relations, to gather information while integrating the most suitable solutions from other parliaments having been placed in similar situations. This is extremely useful in their duties as legislators and as representatives of the interests of their constituents.

Moreover, parliamentarians can leave their mark on international law and supervise the implementation of international government commitments through parliamentary diplomacy opportunities.

The President of the National Assembly has the responsibility of representing the institution in international activities, whose non-partisan nature is ensured by having delegations composed of Members from the various political groups represented at the National Assembly. Over the years the Assembly has developed an extensive network of interparliamentary relations.

The objectives of interparliamentary and international relations

The National Assembly's interparliamentary and international relations are based on four major objectives:

1. Reinforcing the effectiveness of the institution of parliament and of elected representatives in the areas of legislation, government oversight, examination of issues of public interest and representation;
2. Establishing the international position of the National Assembly and increasing its influence in interparliamentary networks;
3. Fostering the active participation of the National Assembly in building a global community founded on democracy, peace, justice and prosperity;
4. Increasing the influence of Québec society, particularly by promoting its sectors of excellence.

Interparliamentary organizations

Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie

The National Assembly of Québec plays a very active role within the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF). During the past year, the President of the National Assembly notably continued his work towards promoting the French language and the diversity of cultural expressions, strengthening the APF's political role with other member bodies of the Francophonie, and consolidating peace, democracy and human rights in the French-speaking world.

APF - Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie): Founded in 1967, composed of members from 78 parliaments and interparliamentary organizations on the five continents (National Assembly of Québec: full member since 1975).

It is within this context that a delegation of the National Assembly took part in the 38th Session of the APF, which was held in Brussels (Belgium), from 8 to 12 July 2012. The Brussels Session focused on media and on communication and information technologies. At the initiative of the Québec Branch, parliamentarians adopted a resolution supporting the implementation of independent national institutions of human rights advocacy. They also adopted a resolution under which the APF undertook to develop its actions towards women's economic empowerment.

Furthermore, a Member of the National Assembly was invited to participate in an information and exchange seminar from the APF's Network of Women Parliamentarians, intended for women parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific region, in Vientiane (Laos) on 27 and 28 November 2012. She presented the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women as well as some measures promoting gender equality recently adopted in Québec.

A Member of the Québec Branch also represented the APF at the 6th Session of the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, held in Paris from 10 to 14 December 2012.

Finally, the National Assembly hosted the APF's Cooperation and Development Committee from 18 to 20 March 2013. About fifteen parliamentarians from the French-speaking community attended the meeting, during which sustainable and economic development was addressed from a cooperation and solidarity perspective.

The President of the National Assembly had the pleasure of welcoming, in July 2012, parliamentarians representing the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF) and other prominent participants to the French Language World Forum. During this event, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie awarded Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie the Senghor-Césaire award for his contribution to the promotion of the Francophonie and of linguistic and cultural diversity.

Messrs. Jacques Chagnon and Paul Gérin-Lajoie

The recipients of the Ordre de la Pléiade

On 19 March 2012, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, awarded the insignia of the Ordre de la Pléiade to eleven public figures from a variety of backgrounds.

Established in 1976, the Pléiade, Order of the Francophonie and of cultural dialogue, recognizes the eminent merits of public figures who have distinguished themselves in serving the ideals of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie, notably with regard to cooperation, solidarity and democracy. The honourees were presented according to the distinction they received. They are:

Commander

Mr. François Côté, Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science of Laval University and former National Assembly Secretary General.

Officer

Ms. Aïda Kamar, founder and President and Chief Executive Officer of Vision Diversité.

Knight

Mr. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu, Founder of the Association of the Families of Persons Murdered or Disappeared (AFPAD), now a Senator;

Mr. André C. Côté, former Lobbyists Commissioner;

Mr. Jacques Demers, Speaker and former head coach of the Montreal Canadiens, now a Senator;

Mr. Gabriel Filteau, biological oceanographer and freshwater specialist;

Mr. Jean-Bernard Hébert, artistic director and actor;

Mr. Guy Laforest, Professor at the Department of Political Science of Laval University;

Mr. Robert Lamontagne, astrobiologist, astrophysicist and Executive Director of the Mont-Mégantic Observatory;

Mr. Jean-François Lisée, co-founder of the Centre d'études et de recherches internationales de l'Université de Montréal (CÉRIUM), for which he acted as Executive Director from 2004 to 2012, now Member for Rosemont, Minister of International Relations, of La Francophonie and External Trade and Minister responsible for the Montréal region;

Mr. Pierre-Karl Péladeau, President and Chief Executive Officer of Québecor inc.

First row, left to right: Messrs. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu, François Côté, Jacques Chagnon, Gabriel Filteau and André C. Côté. Second row, left to right: Mr. Jacques Demers, Ms. Louisiane Gauthier (representing Ms. Aïda Kamar), Messrs. Jean-Bernard Hébert, Guy Laforest, Robert Lamontagne, Jean-François Lisée and Pierre-Karl Péladeau.

On 17 May 2012, the former Québec Delegate General in Brussels and former parliamentarian, Mr. Christos Sirros, received the distinction of Commander.

Did you know?

The Ordre de la Pléiade is composed of five distinctions: Grand Cross, Grand Officer, Commander, Officer and Knight. To date, some 270 Québec public figures have been decorated with the Ordre de la Pléiade.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

CPA - Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: Founded in 1911, composed of 180 parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from the countries forming the Commonwealth (National Assembly of Québec: full member since 1933).

From 15 to 21 July 2012, the National Assembly hosted the 50th Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). More than 140 delegates, including nearly 40 international observers, met at the Parliament Building to discuss themes as diversified as the role of interparliamentary relations in human rights advocacy, the impact of social media on Member duty and the involvement of Aboriginal people in political and parliamentary life. The meeting of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, Canada was held in conjunction with this Conference. The Québec representative hosted a round table on women's professional development. This activity was particularly useful to disseminate information on the rise of women to the highest levels of power in Québec.

Furthermore, the Québec Branch took part in the 23rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar held in Apia, Samoa, from 24 to 30 May 2012. The Québec representative was invited to present the Code of Ethics and Conduct of the Members of the National Assembly during a working session with elected officials from other regions of the CPA, as well as scholars and parliamentary law practitioners.

From 31 January to 3 February 2013, the President and both Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly participated in the 30th Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference, in Victoria, at the invitation of the British Columbia Parliament. During this event, the President shared his experience and views on the president's role in the context of a minority government.

Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Finally, on 21 and 22 March 2013, the National Assembly hosted the 6th Awareness Program of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, Canada. Seven Members of legislative assemblies from Canadian provinces and territories joined colleagues from Québec in sharing their experience regarding women in politics, especially with women and young people.

The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas

COPA - Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas: Created in 1997 on the initiative of the National Assembly of Québec, composed of the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated States, the regional parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.

Since November 2010, the President of the National Assembly assumes the presidency of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA). Pursuant to his established priorities, COPA paid particular attention to the activities of its commissions over the past year.

Hence, on 12 and 13 April 2012, COPA's Committee on Democracy and Peace, presided by a Québec Member, met in Santa Fe (Argentina). This Member presented a self-assessment tool for the parliaments of the Americas, prepared based on parliamentary democracy criteria adopted in Québec in September 2011. He also had the Committee adopt all the recommendations included in the 2005-2011 Review of COPA's electoral observation mission program.

In July 2012, a representative of the National Assembly took part in an electoral observation mission in Mexico, under the auspices of COPA. In total, 28 parliamentarians of the Americas were sent to observe the ballot of 1 July 2012 to elect a new President in Mexico and to renew the country's Congress. The observers noted that the election took place in a generally peaceful atmosphere and

Did you know?

The Québec Secretariat of COPA is responsible for COPA's electoral observation missions program. Since 2005, a total of 13 missions were organized in 9 different countries. It should be noted that COPA has three distinct secretariats lodged in Québec, Mexico and Brazil. The National Assembly is also responsible for the secretariats of two working committees and of the Secretariat of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas.

according to the rules and regulations in effect. They made recommendations concerning the opening of polling stations, the electoral processes in special polling stations and the taking of photographs in voting offices.

Québec parliamentarians also took part in the 16th Annual conference of the National Union of Legislative Assemblies of the Federated States of Brazil (UNALE), held in Natal (Brazil) from 30 May to 1 June 2012, and in the Panamerican Forum of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (OAS), held in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) from 18 to 21 July 2012. They gave presentations on renewable energy, on the participation of women in politics in the Americas, and on Québec's Pay Equity Act.

Finally, the Executive Committees for both COPA and the Network of Women met on 30 November and 1 December 2012, in Mexico. The sole purpose of the meeting was to agree on follow-up measures to be implemented with respect to the 12th General Assembly of COPA, which was held following the political crisis that shook the host of that meeting, the Congress of Paraguay, in June 2012, and to extend the mandate of the Members of the Executive Committee for the same period of time. A delegation of Members from Québec involved in those committees took part in the proceedings along with the President. Among the interventions made by representatives of the National Assembly, it should be noted that the President of the Committee on Democracy and Peace presented a draft agreement-in-principle between COPA and the Organization of American States, which was approved. This agreement strives to improve cooperation between both organizations within their respective electoral observation missions program.

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the COPA in Mexico, December 2012.

American interparliamentary organizations

CSG - Council of State Governments: Created in 1933, composed of representatives of the executive, legislative and judicial powers from the 50 United States and 6 American territories (National Assembly of Québec: international partner since 1995).

In 2012-2013, the National Assembly continued being active within important American interparliamentary organizations. Parliamentarians participated in a dozen activities involving American decision-makers, during which they were able to share Québec's views, notably on business, transport, energy, environment and security themes.

During the Annual Assembly of the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC/CSG), held in Atlantic City (New Jersey) from 20 to 23 July 2012, two resolutions promoting Québec's interests were adopted unanimously by Northeastern American States and Eastern Canadian provinces. The first resolution expressed the support of parliamentarians for the pre-clearance project in Montreal for rail passengers travelling to the US, while the second resolution engaged parliamentarians to implement politics leaning towards unrestricted trade between the provinces and States.

NCSL - National Conference of State Legislatures: American interparliamentary organization founded in 1975, composed of parliamentarians and public servants of the legislative assemblies from the 50 United States and 6 American territories (National Assembly of Québec: international associated member since 2000).

Did you know?

The National Assembly of Québec was the first international partner of the American interparliamentary organizations.

ERC/CSG - Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments: Organization that constitutes the Eastern Chapter of the CSG and is composed of parliamentarians and governmental representatives from the Northeastern United States as well as the five Canadian member provinces (National Assembly of Québec: international associated member since 1990).

Moreover, at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), Québec parliamentarians, among other things, contributed to the publication of a guide for the legislators called T*ransportation Energy for the Future: A Guide for Policymakers*, while presenting the steps undertaken by Québec to facilitate the manufacturing of electric cars. They also had the opportunity to visit a nuclear plant in Lake Anna, Virginia, to gather information on the various issues concerning its operation, security and management of nuclear waste.

Finally, at the Council of State Governments (CSG), the National Assembly delegation was very active in promoting business themes such as the participation of Federated States in international trade negotiations. This theme was launched at the Annual Conference in Austin (Texas), held from 30 November to 2 December 2012, and will be reviewed throughout 2013. From an organizational standpoint, the National Assembly helped establish the organizations' new statutes, and suggested various solutions to clarify the international partners' inherent status and privileges.

Mr. Jacques Chagnon attended the 127th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), held in Québec City in October 2012.

The 127th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

On 24 October 2012, the National Assembly welcomed nearly 700 people at the Parliament Building, including a majority of parliamentarians and numerous Assembly Presidents, reunited for the 127th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), a global organization of 162 State parliaments. Québec parliamentarians were able to establish contact with their counterparts from around the world.

The President of the National Assembly took advantage of this major event to speak with many counterparts from partner institutions. As President of COPA, he also took part in a round table organized by the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs discussing multilateralism and the role of parliamentary diplomacy.

During 2012-2013, the President of the National Assembly also visited the Parliament of Canada, the Parliament of the United Kingdom and the French National Assembly and Senate to meet with his counterparts. The National Assembly maintains direct relations with these parliamentary institutions or within the context of international parliamentary forums of which it is a member. The purpose of these missions was to strengthen their collaborative relationships and to further explore certain themes related to conducting parliamentary business or common interests.

Partner parliaments

In 2012-2013, the National Assembly was involved in a host of interparliamentary activities as part of its bilateral relations with various legislative assemblies and relations with European institutions. Many of these relationships have been institutionalized by cooperation agreements. Meetings with their counterparts gave Members of the National Assembly an opportunity to inquire about legislative and parliamentary initiatives in other jurisdictions and thereby enrich debates about issues of the day affecting Québec society. They are also a great opportunity to highlight Québec's experience.

RELATIONS WITH PARTNER PARLIAMENTS AND WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

Date	Activity	Theme
30 April to 1 May 2012 (Québec City)	Greeting the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Canada	Immigration and integration Québec's public finances and measures taken in order to face the economic crisis Negotiations for a comprehensive economic and trade agreement between Canada and Europe
7 to 11 May 2012 (Belgium)	6th session of the National Assembly/ Walloon Parliament Joint Committee	Forest management Rural development Dynamic land occupancy
28 to 30 November 2012 (Spain)	16th Plenary Session of the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies	Cyberdemocracy Regional democracy The balance between rural and urban zones Fiscal federalism The subsidiarity principle Citizen participation Transparency in a context of recession
4 to 7 March 2013 (Germany)	7th session of the Québec-Bavaria Joint Parliamentary Committee	Policies on aging Policies on rural and agricultural development

Interparliamentary cooperation

Since 1996, the National Assembly has been helping reinforce the efforts of Haiti and French-speaking African countries to consolidate their democracies by collaborating with the parliamentary and administrative sectors of the legislative assemblies and international organizations concerned. This contribution brings together parliamentarians and experts as they share knowledge and good practices at seminars and workshops.

The members of the Morocco-Québec interparliamentary standing committee, created in 2012

The President of the National Assembly and his counterpart from the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco signed an agreement in 2012 which created the Morocco-Québec interparliamentary standing committee. The committee, which meets once a year, provides a framework of cooperation for the two assemblies. During the visit of the Morocco delegation, multiple deliberative meetings were held regarding different aspects of the Assembly's operations (general organization, educational programs, consultation of citizens) and on the participation of women on the political sphere in Québec. In January 2013, a mission led by the Secretary General went to Rabat to support the development of a new policy regarding human resources management and to meet with different administrative units in the event of future support missions.

The National Assembly welcomed the general assembly of the *Association des secrétaires généraux des parlements francophones* [Association of Secretaries General of French-speaking Parliaments] (ASGPF) in October 2012. During the event, a project for an online training program comparing the parliaments of France and Québec, prepared in conjunction with the French National Assembly and Laval University, was presented to the Members, along with a project for a seminar on administrative staff regulations launched by the National Assembly.

Working meeting of the Association of Secretaries General of French-speaking Parliaments in Québec City

In December 2012, the National Assembly participated in a technical assessment mission of the National Assembly of Ivory Coast, in the context of an initiative of multilateral cooperation originating from Members of the APF.

Meetings with the President of the National Assembly and his counterparts

Over the past year, the President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, has met with several of his counterparts, be they presidents of assemblies or of interparliamentary organizations. These official meetings, in addition to making known the National Assembly and its operation, reinforce Québec's parliamentary network abroad.

The following is a list of the persons met by the President:

- The President of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Karim Ghellab
- The President of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature (South Africa), Ms. Lindiwe Michelle Maseko
- The President of the Parliament of Uganda, Ms. Rebecca Kadaga
- The President of the Federal Senate of Brazil, Mr. José Sarney
- The President of the Federal Chamber of Deputies of Brazil, Mr. Marco Maia
- The President of the Legislative Chamber of the Federal District of Brazil, Mr. Sidney da Silva Patrício – The President of the Legislative Assembly of the State of São Paulo, Mr. Barros Munhoz
- The President of the National Union of State Legislatures of Brazil (UNALE), Mr. Joares Ponticelli
- The President of the National Assembly of Ivory Coast, Mr. Guillaume K. Soro
- The President of the National Assembly of Benin, Mr. Mathurin Coffi Nago
- The President of Bundestag, Dr. Norbert Lammert
- The President of the Legislative Assembly of Salvador, Mr. Sigfrido Reyes Morales
- The President of the National Assembly of Ecuador, Mr. Fernando Cordero
- The President of the Senate of Canada, Mr. Noël A. Kinsella
- The President of the House of Commons of Canada, the Honourable Andrew Scheer
- The President of the Senate of the French Republic, Mr. Jean-Pierre Bel
- The President of the French National Assembly, Mr. Claude Bartolone
- The President of the United Kingdom's House of Lords, Baroness D'Souza
- The President of the Bavarian Landtag, Ms. Barbara Stamm

Mr. Jacques Chagnon with Ms. Lindiwe Michelle Maseko, the President of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature (South Africa) in July 2012 in Québec City.

Mr. Jacques Chagnon and his German counterpart from Bundestag, Mr. Norbert Lammert, in Québec City in October 2012.

Official visits

The National Assembly regularly welcomes foreign dignitaries to Québec City. Among them in 2012-2013, the National Assembly welcomed the following:

Official parliamentary visits

- The Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
- The Working group on the modernisation and governance of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
- The Canadian Region of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians network
- The general assembly of the Association of Secretaries General of French-speaking Parliaments
- The Cooperation and Development Commission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie
- The delegation of parliamentarians of the Knesset (Israel)
- The delegation of the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
- The delegation of the State of Maine (United States)
- The delegation of the People's Congress of Shanghai (China)
- The European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Canada
- The delegation of the Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments
- The President of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Member of the United Kingdom House of Commons, Sir Alan Haselhurst
- The Member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Mr. Rob E. Milligan
- The Member of the Bundestag and coordinator of the transatlantic cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Harald Leibrecht
- The President of the International relations Commission of the National Assembly of the People's Power of Cuba, Mr. Ramón Pez Ferro
- The Member of Cypress Hills and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister of Saskatchewan, Mr. Wayne Elhard
- The Secretary General and Clerk of Assembly of the Parliament of the French Community of Belgium, Mr. Xavier Baeselen
- The Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Mr. William F. Shija

Official visits from representatives of governments and intergovernmental organizations and other foreign dignitaries:

- The Secretary General of the Francophonie, His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf
- The Prime Minister of France, Mr. Jean-Marc Ayrault
- The Junior Minister for the Elderly and Dependent Care of France, Ms. Michèle Delaunay
- The German Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Member of Bundestag, Mr. Michael Link
- Delegates general, delegates and heads of posts

Visits from representatives of the diplomatic and consular corps:

- The Ambassador of the State of Qatar, His Excellency Mr. Salem Al-Shafi
- The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdulla Al Ghafli
- The Consul General of Lebanon in Montréal and Dean of Montreal's Consular Corps, Mr. Khalil El-Habre
- The Consul General of France in Québec, Mr. Nicolas Chibaeff
- The Consul General of Japan in Montréal, Mr. Tatsuo Arai
- The Consul General of Haiti in Montréal, Mr. Justin Viard
- Career heads of post – Consular Corps

Did you know?

Fact sheets on the various foreign missions in which the Members of the National Assembly participate are available on the Internet site of the National Assembly at the following address: assnat.qc.ca.

THE ASSEMBLY AND THE CITIZENS

INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT OPENS ITS DOORS TO CITIZENS

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

INFORMATION AND MULTIMEDIA

HERITAGE

THE ASSEMBLY AND THE CITIZENS

Institutional activities

Several institutional activities took place in 2012-2013. Through their uniqueness, they made it possible to celebrate important events and historical accomplishments, to underline outstanding achievements, to debate and exchange on social issues, and to bring citizens, professionals and parliamentarians together.

Medals of honour of the National Assembly

In 2012-2013, four public figures received the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly. It should be reminded that the Medal of Honour is awarded to public figures from all walks of life who, through their career, work or commitment, are deserving of recognition by all the Members of the National Assembly and of Québec society.

Mr. John R. Porter, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Fondation du Musée national des Beaux-Arts du Québec (MNBAQ), and Mr. Hubert Reeves, astrophysicist and Chair of the Fondation Humanité et Diversité, proudly show their Medal of Honour in company of the President, Jacques Chagnon.

Writer Michel Tremblay, the President, Jacques Chagnon, and the founding president of the Fondation du Dr Julien, Mr. Gilles Julien.

Did you know?

Except for the MNA's Medal, all National Assembly Medals are awarded by the President of the Assembly or by one of the 125 Members to public figures from Québec, Canada or anywhere else who deserve to be recognized by the Members of the National Assembly and the general public. Each of these distinctions is a reproduction of an original medal engraved by artist Serge Santucci, with the material depending on the type of medal.

The President's Medal is awarded only to public figures deserving of recognition by all parliamentarians at the National Assembly and the general public.

The Medal of Honour of the National Assembly is awarded to public figures deserving of recognition by all parliamentarians. These public figures are selected upon a unanimous recommendation made to the President of the National Assembly by a committee composed of Members from all parliamentary groups. These Members meet in camera once or twice a year.

The Medal of the National Assembly is awarded exclusively by parliamentarians to individuals they believe are deserving of special recognition. It may also be awarded as an official gift to other elected officials or public figures during parliamentary missions outside Québec or official receptions at the National Assembly.

In addition, the **MNA's Medal** is awarded to each Member of the National Assembly elected or re-elected to a new legislature or following a by-election.

A National Assembly that opens its doors to citizens

In addition to offering Québec citizens the possibility of following parliamentary work and taking part therein, the National Assembly opens its doors to the public all year long. Guided tours and Open House Days thus allow all Quebecers to discover the Parliament Building and attend the parliamentary activities.

Mesmerized kids watch a clown.

Activities for the general public

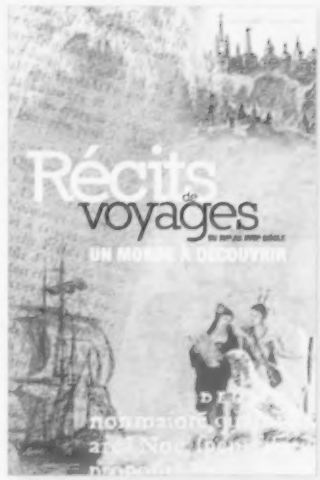
Open House Days at the Parliament Building

Close to 1,450 visitors and citizens underlined Québec's National Holiday, on 24 June 2012, during the Open House Day at the Parliament Building. On this occasion, Eugène-Étienne Taché, Jean Talon, Samuel de Champlain and Pamphile Le May were among the historical figures on hand to welcome them and make them discover the rich architectural heritage and history of the building.

Not only did visitors have access to the National Assembly Chamber, the Legislative Council Chamber and the standing committee rooms, but they also had the opportunity to visit the office of the President, the Flag Room and Le Parlementaire restaurant.

Exhibitions

The Assembly proposes several themes to explore through its exhibitions. In addition to experiencing the Gouverner en Nouvelle-France exhibition, visitors can take a fascinating trip through time with the help of the numerous travel stories showcased in the *Récits de voyages du XIV^e^ au XVIII^e^ siècle, un monde à découvrir* exhibition. These stories are part of the collections of the National Assembly



Library. They are included in a literary genre that transcends the years under the pen of geographers, naturalists, militaries, missionaries and business people who offer full account of their geographical, natural and human findings.

These publications rediscover and study the political and social history of different regions of the world, as well as the evolution of international relations. Through them, visitors will find wonderful treasures and will be able to browse through texts and maps from Nouvelle-France, America and Asia, at a time when Europe sought to conquer the world.

Internet users may also benefit from a very interesting experience by visiting the virtual exhibitions at the following address: bibliotheque.assnat.qc.ca/expositions virtuelles.

Guided tours

The National Assembly offers visitors free guided tours of the Parliament Building. The tours provide details of the history and workings of Québec's parliamentary institutions, the Second Empire style architecture of the Parliament Building and the many works of art it houses.

The Grand défi Pierre Lavoie

Once again this year, the National Assembly welcomed the Grand défi Pierre Lavoie. On 5 June, the names of the 19 winning schools of the Get Up and Move competition were announced in the presence of the President, Members and over one hundred elementary school students.

It should be noted that a non-partisan team of Members, led by Mr. François Bonnardel, Member for Shefford, was on hand to congratulate the winners. This team undertook to participate in the 1,000 km bike ride, in association with the Grand défi, which kicked off on 15 June from Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, headed towards Montréal.

The Grand défi Pierre Lavoie rallied elementary schools from 14 administrative regions. Shown in the photo is President Jacques Chagnon with two young participants.

Between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013, a total of 79,355 people visited the Assembly during 4,083 guided tours. Of this number, 26,406 were pupils or students. A total of 1,455 group visits were also conducted and enabled 42,070 persons to discover the Parliament Building.

Furthermore, 20,838 people walked through the visitors' door to visit the restaurants, standing committee chambers and La Boutique gift shop. Lastly, 202 visitors also had the opportunity of climbing to the top of the central tower for a closer look at the clock.

In the summer of 2012, 9,789 passers-by visited the information kiosk outside the Parliament Building, and 424 among them took a guided tour of the gardens and grounds.

Parliament Building Visits by Place of Origin

PLACE OF ORIGIN	NUMBER OF PERSONS	%
Québec	44,745	56.38
Other provinces	9,812	12.36
United States	8,825	11.12
Other countries	15,973	20.12
Total	79,355	100

Parliament Building Visits by Language

LANGUAGE	NUMBER OF PERSONS	%
French	53,817	67.84
English	24,618	31.02
Spanish	833	1.04
Italian	36	0.04
QSL	51	0.06
Total	79,355	100

Parliament Building Visits by School Group

LEVEL	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	%
Elementary	10,630	40
Secondary	12,071	46
College	1,080	4
Adult education	2,074	6.9
University	551	1.8
Total	26,406	100

Did you know?

Since May 2011, persons with hearing disabilities have access to specially adapted guided tours of the Parliament Building. Four IPods, whose sign language content was created by the National Assembly, are henceforth available on request.

Parliament Building restaurants

Le Parlementaire restaurant is open to the public. The restaurant features a magnificent Beaux Arts decor. Witness to parliamentary life, host of numerous State dinners and formal receptions and venue par excellence for Québec products, Le Parlementaire is unique among the region's restaurants.

Known as the "Mini-Débat" until 2008, the Café du Parlement is the ideal restaurant for guests with little time to eat. Choices include hot meals and salads, a variety of sandwiches and snacks. It is located on the ground floor of the Parliament Building.

Theme brunches

Le Parlementaire restaurant once again invited the population to a summer brunch in 2012. On 8 July, 225 visitors thus partook in a culinary experience featuring Québec's regional dishes. Citizens also had the opportunity to take a guided tour of the Parliament Building. The Carnival brunches, which took place on 10 and 17 February 2013, also allowed some 500 visitors to take a tour of the Parliament in addition to enjoying the brunches.

Did you know?

In 2012-2013, 47,730 visitors were welcomed at Le Parlementaire restaurant and enjoyed some of Québec's finest dishes prepared by our chef. The Café du Parlement, for its part, received 30,022 customers.

A forum for exchanges

National Assembly Open House for New Quebecers

The National Assembly has been working toward helping citizens become better acquainted with this institution and understand the role of Members in society. Newcomers constitute an ideal target group in this regard, as a good understanding of our democratic institutions fosters better integration into Québec society.

The National Assembly therefore worked closely with the Department of Immigration and Cultural Communities and the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec to organize an awareness day at the Parliament Building. This open house is an opportunity for newcomers to become better acquainted with the National Assembly as a democratic institution, to meet the President and Members from their region, and to learn more about the history of Québec and its parliamentary system.

First row, second from left, the Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities and Minister responsible for the Charter of the French language, Ms. Diane De Courcy.

In 2012-2013, two open houses were held. They attracted 76 people from 17 electoral divisions, namely:

- Anjou
- Bourassa-Sauvé
- Bourget
- Brome-Missisquoi
- Chambly
- Charlevoix
- Granby
- Hochelaga-Maisonneuve
- Jeanne-Mance–Viger
- La Pinière
- La Prairie
- Laporte
- Marie-Victorin
- Saint-Hyacinthe
- Saint-Jean
- Taillon
- Vachon

The Forum des Rendez-vous de la démocratie (Political Book Prize 2012)

On 4 April 2012, authors writing about topics related to Québec politics were awarded the Political Book Prize during the Forum des Rendez-vous de la démocratie. This activity seeks to raise the profile of political books, often overlooked by the general public. Ms. Fatima Houda-Pepin rewarded the following recipients:

The National Assembly's **Prix de la Présidence**

- **1st prize** ($5,000): Henri Dorion and Jean-Paul Lacasse, *Le Québec : territoire incertain*. (Septentrion);
- **2nd prize** ($1,500): Simon Jolivet, *Le vert et le bleu : identité québécoise et identité irlandaise au tournant du XXe siècle*. (Presses de l'Université de Montréal);
- **3rd prize** ($1,000): Yvan Lamonde, *La modernité au Québec. Part 1. La Crise de l'homme et de l'esprit, 1929-1939*. (Fides).

From left to right: the president of the National Assembly's Prix de la Présidence jury, Mr. Martin Pâquet, the second prize winner, Mr. Simon Jolivet, the representative of the third prize winner, Mr. Yvan Lamonde, Ms. Guylaine Girard, the first prize winners, Messrs. Jean-Paul Lacasse and Henri Dorion, and the Member for La Pinière, Ms Fatima Houda-Pepin.

The **Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant**

Doctoral thesis

- **1st prize** ($3,000): Sabine Choquet, *Le multiculturalisme et l'identité nationale*. France, Québec, Canada : trois modèles de construction identitaire. (Laval University; Paris-I – Panthéon Sorbonne University).

Master's theses

- **1st prize** ($2,000): Ariane Gagnon-Rocque, *La peine en droit de l'environnement canadien : de la sanction dissuasive à une approche centrée sur la réparation de l'atteinte*. (Laval University);
- **2nd prize** ($1,000): Cécile Liénart, *Concilier travail et famille : l'adéquation entre les politiques et la situation des travailleuses atypiques au Québec*. (Université du Cuébec à Montréal);
- **3rd prize** ($500): François Deschamps, *Le radicalisme Tory à travers le prisme du Montreal Herald et la mobilisation des milices dans le district de Montréal (1834-1837)*. (Université du Québec à Montréal).

In the evening, the former President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau, gave a conference entitled "Les partis politiques : un mal nécessaire?". Attendees also participated in a round table on the theme "Les partis politiques favorisent-ils la démocratie?", to which three renowned personalities took part: Ms. Carole Beaulieu, editor in chief of *L'actualité*, Mr. Jean-Herman Guay, political scientist, and Senator Jean-Claude Rivest. In addition, in order to mark the 10th anniversary of Political Book Day, the National Assembly published the conference proceedings of each Political Book Day.

The Jeunes explorateurs d'un jour program

On 19 April 2012, the National Assembly hosted the seventh edition of the Jeunes explorateurs d'un jour event. Six students from secondary 4 and 5 were able to explore a profession of interest to them, becoming cameramen or computer graphics designers for the day. Hosted by a group of employees from the Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate, these young people were given the opportunity to learn more about the field of television.

Research and education activities

The Library of the National Assembly

The Library's mission is to meet the documentary and research needs of Members and of the Assembly's administrative units by providing them with reliable and unbiased information, analyses and archives. To this end, reference, research, document management and archives services are at their disposal. The Library is also responsible for conserving and showcasing the National Assembly's collection of heritage objects and is open to citizens.

Did you know?

The Library is responsible for the management and preservation of the administrative archives of the National Assembly as well as for the purchasing, preservation and dissemination of the archival fonds and private archive collections of Members and senior government officials of the Assembly, in relation to the parliamentary heritage of Québec.

Reference Services

In this era of constantly evolving information sources, it is important for Members to be able to count on the library's specialists, who, thanks to their training, unique knowledge of the Assembly and access to the most pertinent document sources can quickly provide them with the information they are searching for.

Nearly 7,150 information queries were processed in 2012-2013. Of these, 3,039 came from parliamentarians, their associates and staff at the National Assembly and agencies reporting to the National Assembly. The users have access to the monthly lists of new additions to the library as well as to the bibliography on parliamentarism in Québec. The bibliography is available online and is the most comprehensive source of information to date on parliamentary work in Québec. Close to 1,500 tweets regarding the Library's activities, new releases and historic facts were posted on the National Assembly's Twitter account @BiblioAssnat.

Research Service

In 2012-2013, the Research Service participated in committee activities relating to parliamentary scrutiny, orders of initiative and statutory orders, and also proceeded with the examination of petitions. In addition, it prepared an information booklet on the main missions of the State for the benefit of the Members of the 40th Legislature.

Moreover, the Service continued with its historical and institutional queries by establishing an online encyclopedia about parliamentarism and by publishing two issues of the *Bulletin de la Bibliothèque*.

Did you know?

The ***bibliography on parliamentarism in Québec*** is an online source of information about parliamentary work in Québec. It can be found under Library on the Assembly website: www.assnat.qc.ca/fr/bibliotheque/bd/index.html

The Library collections

As at 31 March 2013, 326,808 documents were available for consultation in the Library's CUBIQ computerized catalogue, as were over 2.2 million documents distributed as follows in the various collections:

PRINT	
Monographs	510,064
Magazines	284,050
Newspapers	732,594
MICRODOCUMENTS	
Microfilms	38,619
Microfiches	571,417
Electronic documents (CD-ROMs, DVDs, etc.)	15,782
Online electronic documents	95,491
Audio recordings	185
Videocassettes	875
Posters, cards and photographs	1,209
Total	2,250,286

Citizens have access to the Library year round, from Monday to Friday.

Library attendance statistics

During the past year, 8,633 persons visited the Library. They were users, guests invited to a special activity, or ordinary visitors. Guided tours, book launchings, exhibitions and conferences were held throughout the year. Over 3,400 persons attended these activities. Lastly, 4,104 citizens used the reference services and benefited from welcoming, guidance and training services as well as access to the website of the Assembly and the Library catalogue.

Did you know?

All of these documents are accessible by consulting the Library catalogue or its website. The digitization of the documentary collections enables the Library to meet two objectives: contribute to conserving these documents, many of which are unique, and make them available to a wider public. In 2012-2013, nearly 26,000 documents from the Library collections were consulted and 97,500 documents were digitalized.

Education on Democracy by the National Assembly

The National Assembly wishes to stimulate the interest of young people in the exercise of democracy. In order to contribute to their becoming active and well-informed citizens, the National Assembly has developed various activities and publications to educate on democracy. To that effect, in 2009, it published a youth strategy, which is still in force. The purpose of the strategy is to:

- reach young people in their everyday environments;
- work with teachers in a more efficient and structured way.

In line with this strategy, the Assembly increased its discussions with youth-related organizations in 2012-2013 through efforts such as the Table de concertation des forums jeunesse régionaux du Québec and the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec.

In addition, a public call for tenders was issued in order to create an "Education space" website.

Throughout the year, the Assembly carried on with its youth-oriented activities. Hence, the President's Tour that took place in secondary schools, the Young Democrats' Tournament, the parliamentary simulations, along with the activities of the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant contributed to educating young people on democracy.

President's Tour

This activity aims to:

- broaden the knowledge of students with regard to the role played by the Members, the President and the National Assembly;
- promote the importance of citizen participation;
- provide young people with an opportunity to exchange views on topics that are of interest to them.

Mr. François Ouimet during his visit to École secondaire des Chutes, in Shawinigan

During the Tour, the President of the Assembly, or one of the three Vice-Presidents, meets with students in their high school, accompanied by the Member for the electoral division visited. The Tour was cancelled during fall 2012 due to the general election. From 1 April to 11 May 2012, and from 22 February to 31 March 2013, the President and Vice-Presidents met 2,488 students in 17 schools located in 9 Québec regions.

20TH YOUNG DEMOCRATS' TOURNAMENT

The 2012 Young Democrats' Tournament Finals, college category.

The Young Democrats' Tournament is a quiz that invites contestants to test their knowledge about the evolution of democracy, from Ancient Greece to modern day, and on Québec's political history. Young people from secondary 4 and 5 as well as from college participate each year in this educational activity.

Date:	20 to 22 April 2012
Target group:	Secondary 4 and 5 and college students
Number of participants:	162 students and 42 accompanying teachers
Number of participating schools:	27
Number of teams involved:	36 (21 from secondary schools and 15 from college)
Theme:	The 125th anniversary of the Parliament Building

Gold medal winners:

High school category: Polyvalente Le Carrefour

College category: Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf

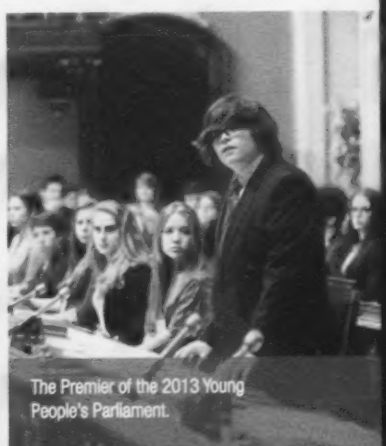
TOURNOI JEUNES DÉMOCRATES

Parliamentary simulations

These role-playing activities are designed to educate participants about the operation of the National Assembly, its rules, privileges and powers. Apprentice Members spend several days drafting and discussing bills while learning the art of compromise, consensus and respect for others.

2013 Student Forum participants in action.

Mr. François Ouimet surrounded by participants of the Pupils' Parliament.



The Premier of the 2013 Young People's Parliament.

16TH PUPILS' PARLIAMENT

Date: 27 April 2012

Target group: 6th grade elementary school students

Number of participants: 124 students and 69 accompanying teachers

Titles of the three bills examined:

1. *Bullying Act*
2. *An Act respecting security in school zones*
3. *An Act respecting water safety*

Bills 1 and 2 were passed, while Bill 3 was rejected.

PARLEMENT ÉCOLIER

21ST STUDENT FORUM

Date: 6 to 10 January 2013

Target group: College students

Number of participants: 130 students and 41 accompanying teachers

Number of colleges represented: 24

Titles of the three bills examined:

1. *An Act to increase food self-sufficiency in Québec*
2. *An Act respecting free education*
3. *An Act respecting the reform of the voting system*

All 3 bills were passed.

FORUM ÉTUDIANT

11TH YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT

Date: 23 to 25 January 2013

Target group: Secondary 3 and 4 students

Number of participants: 135 (125 student Members, 3 secretaries, 7 journalists)

Number of schools represented: 33

Titles of the three bills examined:

1. *An Act respecting the maximum number or working hours for young people*
2. *An Act regulating promotional materials*
3. *An Act to introduce an economics and personal finance course for secondary 4 and 5 students*

PARLEMENT DES JEUNES

Motion by the opposition and debate

"That the Assembly of the Young People's Parliament ask the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport to add current events to History classes in secondary 3 and 4."

Order of initiative

The students had the opportunity to question Ms. Valérie Morency, a sexologist specialized in sexual education within the *Pour une sexualité en santé* program, about sexual education in an era of hypersexualisation and Internet.

YOUTH PARLIAMENT AND STUDENT PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC

In addition to its own simulations, the National Assembly also lends its support and arranges logistics for two parliamentary simulations aimed at university and college students.

- The Youth Parliament of Québec, sponsored by the Association québécoise des jeunes parlementaires inc.
- The Student Parliament of Québec, sponsored by the Assemblée parlementaire des étudiants du Québec inc.

The 63rd Youth Parliament, held from 26 to 30 December 2012, brought together 104 participants. A few days later, from 2 to 6 January, the 27th Student Parliament of Québec attracted 146 participants. Each year, these activities give young people an opportunity to learn about the basics of the legislative and parliamentary process.

Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant

The foundation was established in 1978 to honour the work of Jean-Charles Bonenfant. Its mission is:

- to increase, improve and disseminate knowledge of our political and parliamentary institutions;
- to promote study and research on democracy.

This mission takes the form of parliamentary internships together with scholarships, conferences on parliamentarism and democracy, educational activities as well as financial support to the National Assembly's educational activities.

Parliamentary internships

Each year, five ten-month internships are offered to students having been enrolled in a bachelor's degree program in a Québec university for at least two years. The internship includes a $21,000 scholarship. Excellent marks, an interest in democratic institutions as well as social and community involvement are the main selection criteria.

During their internship, the five candidates selected experience the numerous facets of Québec parliamentary life, becoming more familiar with the operation of the National Assembly and institutions that report to it, namely:

- the Ethics Commissioner;
- the Lobbyists Commissioner;
- the Chief Electoral Officer;
- the Public Protector;
- the Auditor General.

Each intern is subsequently paired with a Member from the Government and then a Member in opposition. The interns also participate in a fact-finding mission to a foreign parliament and exchange with their counterparts from the Parliament of Canada and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Along with these activities, the interns are required to prepare a dissertation on a topic in relation to parliamentarism and democracy.

Mr. François Ouimet, then Vice-President of the Fondation, surrounded by the 2011-2012 scholarship recipients: François Gagnon, Olivier Côté, André-Yanne Parent, Marie-Joëlle Carbonneau and Ludovic Soucisse

End of 2011-2012 internships

On 6 June 2012, an official ceremony marked the end of the internships that began in September 2011 as the five interns submitted their dissertations: Marie-Joëlle Carbonneau, Olivier Côté, François Gagnon, André-Yanne Parent and Ludovic Soucisse. The Vice-President of the National Assembly, then Vice-President of the Fondation, Mr. François Ouimet, presided the ceremony.

Their dissertations had the following titles:

- *Députés indépendants à l'Assemblée nationale : définition, impact sur le rôle de député et réflexions sur le parlementarisme* (Marie-Joëlle Carbonneau);
- *Politiciens, médias et cynisme politique des citoyens – Analyse comparative du discours politique et des couvertures médiatiques des débats des chefs québécois de 1962 et de 2003* (Olivier Côté);
- *L'étude des crédits budgétaires en commission comme reflet du contrôle parlementaire* (François Gagnon);
- *La relève politique québécoise : portrait des jeunes élus de l'Assemblée nationale* (André-Yanne Parent);
- *La presse hebdomadaire en région et les députés québécois* (Ludovic Soucisse);

These dissertations are available from the Library of the National Assembly and the foundation's website.

Beginning of 2012-2013 internships

The scholarship recipients for 2012-2013: David Searle, Gabriel Coulombe, Gabrielle Angers-Gosselin, Rébecca Morency and Samuel Morissette

The interns for 2012-2013 began their internship on 5 September, on the day following the general election. They are: Gabrielle Angers-Gosselin, Gabriel Coulombe, Rébecca Morency, Samuel Morissette and David Searle. They were alternately twinned with a Member from the parliamentary group forming the Government and a Member in opposition. Due to the general election, their first pairing was shortened by a few weeks. The interns took advantage of the time they had before their first pairing and prepared a mission project. It took place in New Zealand from 2 to 17 March.

Parliaments in Elementary Schools and Parliaments in High Schools

Parliaments in Elementary Schools and Parliaments in High Schools are inspired by the National Assembly while mirroring the operation of student councils. They encourage students to take part in decisions affecting student life, thus helping them to feel that they have a role to play in their school communities. Participation takes place in a spirit of cooperation and assistance between the school board, school principal and school staff members.

Furthermore, these activities allow young people to learn about and uphold democratic values such as freedom of speech, respect for differences of opinion, the art of compromise, solidarity, justice, tolerance, equality, representation, the right to vote and access to information. By the same token, students acquire knowledge of the National Assembly.

Different contributors help the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation run this exercise in democratic participation and education, namely the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec, the Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec and the Secrétariat à la jeunesse.

As at 31 March 2013, Parliaments in High Schools included 236 schools. After three years of existence, Parliaments in Elementary Schools have 343 participating schools. In total, 10,000 student council members from 599 Québec elementary schools and high schools have adopted this student council model.

Inaugurated in spring 2008, the Parliaments in Elementary Schools and Parliaments in High Schools Awards recompense students for their achievements. In 2012-2013, the foundation awarded during a first gala six $500 prizes to schools, thus enabling them to implement one of the bills passed by their student council. The following is a list of the bills introduced by the recipients.

Prizes awarded to Parliaments in Elementary Schools

- *An Act to create a committee on bullying*
  École Vincent-Lemire (Saint-François-du-Lac)
- *An Act to promote the use of bicycles as the preferred mode of transportation to school*
  École des Pionniers – Pavillon de la Salle (Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures)
- *An Act establishing a mandatory half-day devoted to the environment each spring.*
  École à l'Unisson (Mirabel)

Prizes awarded to Parliaments in High Schools

- *An Act to add a cultural outing*
  Collège de l'Assomption (L'Assomption)
- *An Act respecting the opening of a computer lab*
  École secondaire Sacré-Cœur de Gracefield (Gracefield)
- *An Act to create a permit intended for corridor musicians*
  École secondaire Les Compagnons-de-Cartier (Québec)

Parlements au primaire et au secondaire

Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions

Launched in November 2007, the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions is the result of a joint initiative of the National Assembly and Laval University. Seven other partners have joined in since that time, namely the National Assembly of the French Republic, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Auditor General, the Public Protector, the Lobbyists Commissioner as well as the CROP polling firm and the Organization of American States (OAS). The Chair concluded specific agreements with each partner, designed to offer research internships, scholarships and allow different studies on subjects of interest for the partners.

The Chair has four objectives:

1. Create a university hub of excellence on democracy and parliamentary institutions;
2. Make parliamentary institutions a specific research, teaching and training subject in political science and the social sciences;
3. Promote the awareness of students about all aspects of parliamentarism in modern democracies;
4. Foster the openness of the parliamentary community concerning its environment.

Its activities include support for research, continuous education and knowledge sharing.

Mr. Chagnon addressing Chair partners and scholarship recipients for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

Moreover, in November 2012, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, greeted the partners and scholarship recipients for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 of the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions at the National Assembly Library. During the event, he congratulated the scholarship recipients and pointed out that the Chair is an essential tool to educate and share knowledge.

Finally, the Chair held its 3rd international seminar on 31 January and 1 February 2013 in the Legislative Council Chamber. About ten speakers from Catalonia, Galicia, Basque Country, Flanders, Scotland, Wales and Québec discussed the issues surrounding Parliaments of Self-Governing Nations with the participants.

Student Page program

Established in collaboration with the Research Chair in 2009, this internship program allows undergraduate students of Laval University the possibility of gaining valuable work experience and familiarizing themselves with Québec's parliamentary institutions. Students enrolled in a bachelor of law, political science, history or public affairs and international relations are eligible to enter the page program.

The student pages for 2012-2013, accompanied by Ms. Chantale Martineau and Mr. Gilles Jourdain.

Fourteen students spent ten to fourteen hours a week at the National Assembly during the sessional periods, between August 2012 and June 2013. This remunerated internship also requires students to write a research paper on a facet of parliamentarism of their choice, with the guidance and support of a staff member of the National Assembly. Students taking part in the page program earn six academic credits toward their B.A.

Course in parliamentary law and procedure

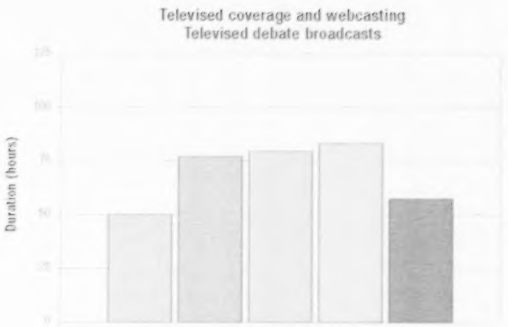
For a ninth consecutive year, Laval University, the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions, and the National Assembly have formed a partnership to offer a course on parliamentary law and procedure to university students. Tailor-made for law, political science, public affairs and international relations students, this course seeks to instruct them on the rules and principles that characterize the organization and operation of the parliamentary proceedings carried out at the National Assembly. In 2012-2013, 21 students took this course.

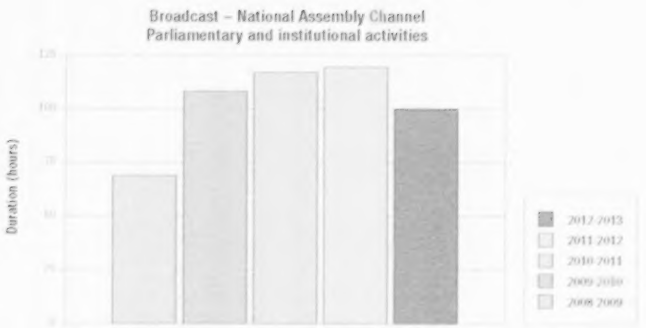
Information and multimedia

Broadcasting and webcasting

The National Assembly communicates information regarding its various activities on its television channel and on its website. These activities may be pre-recorded or are broadcast live on the National Assembly Channel and webcast on its Internet site.

Furthermore, a great number of these are archived on the Assembly website and are thus available to citizens at all times. Broadcasting is divided into two categories: parliamentary activities, which include parliamentary proceedings and press conferences, and in-house production, which includes particularly institutional promotion, as well as the *Mémoires de députés* televised series.





Televised coverage and webcasting 2012-2013 fiscal year	Number of events	Duration
Parliamentary and institutional activities	603	1299:22
Press events	330	151:01
Total	933	1450:23

Broadcast – National Assembly Channel 2012-2013 fiscal year	Number of events	Duration
Parliamentary and institutional activities (including press events)	1983	2382:22
Institutional promotion *"Mémoires de députés"* Series Members' holiday greetings	not applicable	977:08
Continuous electronic hosting	not applicable	5400:30
Total		8760:00

Mémoires de députés

The *Mémoires de députés* television series features interviews conducted by journalist Gilles Morin with former Members of the National Assembly. They recall the more memorable moments of their career and of Québec's history.

In 2012-2013, the *Mémoires de députés* team worked on producing 38 new episodes. Of course, the success of this series would not be possible without the generous participation of former parliamentarians who share their experience in politics. The interviews presented on the National Assembly Channel this year featured Mmes. Cécile Vermette, Margaret F. Delisle and Jocelyne Ouellette, as well as Messrs. Harry Blank, the late William Cusano, Richard Guay, Gil Rémillard, Jacques Léonard, Francis Dufour, Raymond Brouillet and Robert Lamontagne. These episodes are also available on the National Assembly website at the following address: www.assnat.qc.ca/memoires.

In addition, in December 2012, the National Assembly launched the fifth DVD box set, containing the 59 episodes from the 2010-2011 season. These episodes add to the hundred more available on the four previous box sets, thus preserving our collective political and historical memory. For the National Assembly, presenting its role, the work of Members and parliamentary life in Québec in a unique and humane manner is another way to get closer to its citizens.

The Assembly now active on social media

The National Assembly entered a new era of communication by joining the social media scene. In 2012-2013, its presence on both Facebook and Twitter added to its usual means of communication, to its television channel and to its website assnat.qc.ca, in order to provide Internet users with a new direct and interactive gateway to the latest news about parliamentary and institutional activities.

The Assembly uses Facebook and Twitter notably to promote its activities and its website, and to announce major parliamentary activities. Social media is also used for educational purposes, i.e. to educate Internet users on the history of parliamentarism in Québec, to reveal archival gems, to draw attention on the thousands of documents available at the Library, and much more.

HERITAGE

Documentary Heritage

Documentary management and archives

In 2012-2013, the Library personnel answered over 800 requests for information, more specifically about the loan of semi-active files, the consultation of archival files and the reference service. These requests also involved research for parliamentarians and their associates, the personnel of the National Assembly and agencies reporting to the Assembly and from elsewhere.

All citizens can consult the archives at the National Assembly Library, obtain reproductions of the documents contained in the fonds and archival collections, and visit our Facebook page « Archives et histoires de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec ».

Promotion of heritage objects

On 7 June 2012, Senator Serge Joyal donated a vermeil cane that was once owned by Joseph-Adolphe Chapleau (1840-1898) to the National Assembly. During a brief ceremony, the President paid tribute to the patron known for his commitment to protecting and promoting the artistic, historical and cultural heritage of Québec.

Did you know?

Joseph-Adolphe Chapleau was a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1867 to 1882 and Premier of Québec from 1879 to 1882. The cane was given to him in 1882 by Members Édouard Caron and Joseph Robillard.

Architectural and Urban Heritage

Renovation and upgrade of offices

The renovation and upgrade of 327 offices used by parliamentarians and their staff was necessary as these offices had not been renovated since the Parliament Building was built in 1886. As such, they were among the most obsolete in the building.

The work was carried out over several years and divided in 13 phases. This year, during phase 12, 23 spaces were renovated, including the lobbies of the National Assembly Chamber and the offices of the Members.

Restoration of the masonry of the Parliament Building's facade

Major defects that emerged in the masonry over the years, and which caused water infiltration inside the building's walls, were corrected. These corrections included: replacing or restoring fractured stones, complete repointing of the masonry, restoring the roof's watertight membrane and installing gutters.

Other work to reinforce and realign the structure of Tower No. 1 was performed, and the upper part of the National Assembly Chamber's bearing wall was rebuilt.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, A STIMULATING WORK ENVIRONMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Administrative organization

The Office of the National Assembly

The National Assembly is administered within the framework of the statutes, regulations and rules to which it is subject. To preserve its administrative autonomy, the *Act respecting the National Assembly* established the Office of the National Assembly, which acts as its administrative board and passes any regulation it deems necessary for operation of the Assembly. By virtue of the powers conferred upon it, the Office passes any regulation that it deems necessary to manage the National Assembly. It must, among other duties, approve the Assembly's budgetary estimates and regulate matters of immediate concern to Members, such as their allowances and working conditions, as well as those of their staff.

COMPOSITION OF THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY AS AT 31 MARCH 2013		
Chair of the Office: Mr. Jacques Chagnon		
MEMBERS		
Parti québécois (5)	**Québec Liberal Party (3)**	**Coalition avenir Québec (1)**
Mr. Jean-Marie Claveau (Dubuc) Mr. Daniel Goyer (Deux-Montagnes) Mr. Roland Richer (Argenteuil) Mr. Sylvain Roy (Bonaventure) Mr. Luc Trudel (Saint-Maurice)	Ms. Marguerite Blais (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) Ms. Christine St-Pierre (Acadie) Ms. Lise Thériault (Anjou–Louis-Riel)	Ms. Sylvie Roy (Arthabaska)
SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS		
Parti québécois	**Parti libéral du Québec**	**Coalition avenir Québec**
Ms. Denise Beaudoin (Mirabel) Ms. Marie Bouillé (Iberville) Mr. Marjolain Dufour (René-Lévesque) Ms. Lorraine Richard (Duplessis) Mr. Dave Turcotte (Saint-Jean)	Mr. Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon) Mr. Jean D'Amour (Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata) Mr. Laurent Lessard (Lotbinière-Frontenac)	Mr. Daniel Ratthé (Blainville)

Changes in the administrative structure

The administrative structure underwent major changes in the last two years. The changes were aimed at:

- Generating savings with respect to senior management positions by rearranging some directorates or by eliminating positions subsequent to retirements;
- Regrouping similar services to improve the provision of services to parliamentarians and creating a better synergy within these directorates;
- Offering new challenges to managers in service by increasing responsibilities and granting promotions matching their level of responsibility.

As such, the following changes took place on 6 December 2012:

- The Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate was transferred to the General Directorate for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs;
- The *Journal des débats* (Hansard) was merged with the Parliamentary Proceedings Directorate;
- The Debate Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate was incorporated into the Computer Services and Telecommunications Directorate, which has become the Computer Services, Broadcasting and Telecommunications Directorate;
- Since the Assembly's educational mission was delegated to the Communications Directorate, the latter became the Communications and Educational Programs Directorate;
- The Restaurant Service was assigned to the Human Resources Directorate.

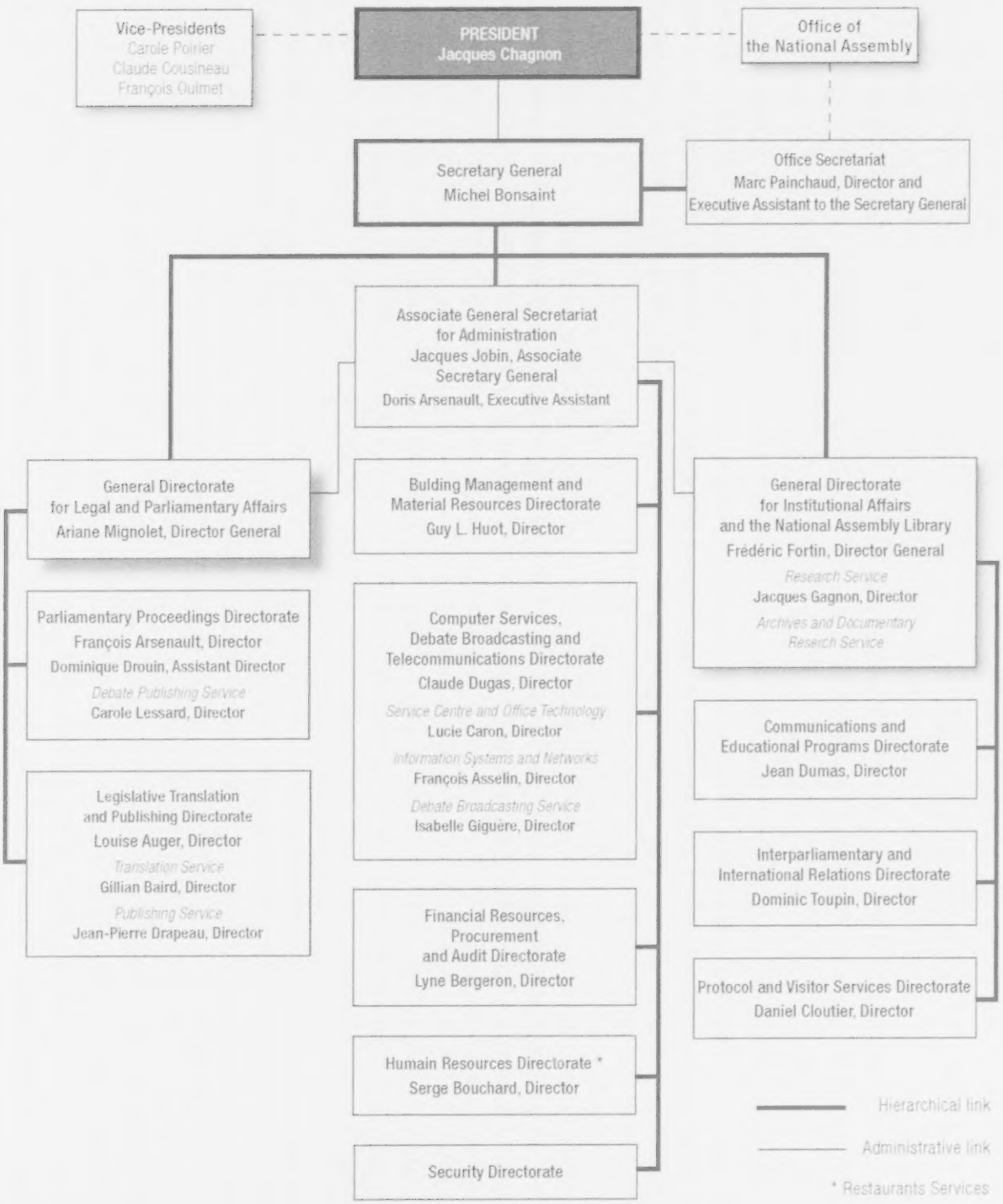
Personnel

Staff as at 31 March 2013

To carry out its mission, the National Assembly currently has an administrative staff of 502 regular and 199 casual positions.

Its political staff of executive assistants, political aides and advisors, and support staff totals 490 people, divided between Parliament Hill and Members' riding offices.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AS AT 31 MARCH 2013



Administrative Staff by Age Group

- 35 and under 28.2%
- 36 - 40 ..... 10.8%
- 41 - 45 ..... 10.2%
- 46 - 50 ..... 13.9%
- 51 - 55 ..... 16.4%
- 56 and over 20.5%

A quarter century of commitment

On 6 December 2011, a ceremony was held in the company of the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, the Secretary General, Mr. Michel Bonsaint, and several other guests to celebrate the dedication of staff who have worked for the Québec National Assembly or as public servants for 25 years. Mmes. Annie Blackburn, Linda Laplante, Chantal Lorrion, Marie-Josée Dufour, Johanne Martel, Suzanne Langevin, Marcelle Légaré, Josée L'Heureux, Diann Piché, as well as Messrs. Jocelyn Beaulieu, André Brochu, Roch Laberge, Daniel Villeneuve, Rénald Buteau, François Gagné, Denis Drouin, André Marceau, Alain Bernier and Alain Julien were all honoured at the event.

First row from left to right: Mr. Rénald Buteau, Ms. Johanne Martel, Mr. Denis Drouin, Mr. Roch Laberge, Mmes. Suzanne Langevin, Chantal Lorrion, Linda Laplante, Mr. Alain Bernier. Second row from left to right: Mr. Daniel Villeneuve, Ms. Annie Blackburn, Messrs. Jocelyn Beaulieu, Alain Julien, Mmes. Josée L'Heureux, Marie-Josée Dufour, Messrs. André Marceau and André Brochu. Absent from photo: Mmes. Marcelle Légaré and Diann Piché so well as Mr. François Beaulieu.

Administrative Staff by Employment Category

- Executives 5%
- Professionals 27.2%
- Public servants 43%
- Workers 14.1%
- Peace officers 6.1%
- Others 4.6%

Gender distribution

Women	52%
Men	48%

Two Zénith Awards

On 5 September 2012, the National Assembly stood out during the 16th Zénith Awards of the Forum des communicateurs gouvernementaux. The Assembly received two awards during the event: the first award was received in the Publications category for its collection of photographs entitled *Québec, splendeurs capitales*, and the second award was received in the Public Relations category for its public relations campaign conducted during the tabling of the report by the Select Committee on Dying with Dignity. In addition, the Assembly was a finalist in three other categories. The Zénith Awards highlight the exceptional quality of artists working in government communications. In 2012, 33 departments submitted their candidacy for a total of 70 achievements.

The team from the Communications Directorate that won the Zénith Award in the Public Relations category: Mr. Jean-Philippe Laprise, Mmes. Marie-Josée Dufour and Eliane De Nicolini, Mr. Jean Dumas, Director of Communications. In the background, Mr. Marc Croteau, then deputy minister for International Relations, presented the award.

Welcoming, professional development and training

The National Assembly renewed its welcoming process for new employees and continued to offer training sessions to some of its employees.

Welcoming new administrative staff

The welcoming sessions used to be held once a year. Upon review of the formula, the Human Resources Directorate chose to go with a more personal approach. Welcoming sessions now take place every month, during which time Human Resources Directorate representatives address various topics. In addition, in order to facilitate the integration of new employees, they provide information on their working conditions. Between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013, 75 new employees were welcomed.

In addition, coffee klatches are an integral part of the new employees welcoming process. One coffee klatch was held in 2012-2013, which brought together ten employees and a few Assembly executives, including the Secretary General, Mr. Michel Bonsaint, and the Director of Human Resources, Mr. Serge Bouchard.

In-house training for Assembly employees

Assembly employees were able to take advantage of training sessions on topics as varied as:

- parliamentary procedure;
- protocol and etiquette in the work environment;
- computer migration to Windows 7 and Office 2010.

Forty employees took part in the training on parliamentary procedure and 21 in the protocol training. As for the training course on computer migration, it was attended by more than 235 employees.

Ensemble
vers les nouvelles technologies

Training Schedule 2012-2013

TITLE OF THE ACTIVITY	DATE	DURATION
Training on parliamentary procedure	2012-06-19	1 day
Training on protocol and etiquette	2012-09-13	2 hours
Training on protocol and etiquette	2012-09-21	2 hours
Training on computer migration to Windows 7 and Office 2010	Several dates from 2012-05-14 to 2012-10-09	28 days

Training on the National Assembly

The General Directorate for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs offers training to all new employees of the Assembly, casual or permanent, and to interns. This training allows employees to better know the Assembly and to better appreciate their role in the performance of the work of Members. Overall, 45 employees attended the training, which was offered in June.

In addition, as part of the training provided to new managers by the École nationale d'administration publique, the General Directorate for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs provides training sessions on the operations of the National Assembly. These regular training sessions attract about 20 new managers each time.

Training program for members of the Bar Association working at the National Assembly

Since 1 April 2009, all members of the Québec Bar Association must undergo at least 30 hours of training per two-year period. These sessions allow members to acquire, maintain, update, improve and broaden the professional skills related to exercising the profession.

To contribute to aiding employees who are members of the Bar to fulfill this obligation, the Assembly continued its workplace training program. As such, three training sessions were offered, which were attended by 70 employees.

DATE	TRAINING
20 November 2012	Ethics and social media
19 February 2013	From lawyer to ethics watchdog
19 March 2013	Separation of powers: the role of the National Assembly

The National Assembly aims to offer approximately 33 hours of continued education per two-year period.

Training program for jurists at the National Assembly

In addition, the General Directorate for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs offered three training sessions to State Counsels. This training allows them to better understand the role of the National Assembly in the process of passing the laws they must draft, defend or apply. More than 250 counsels attended these training sessions.

Preparation of a course comparing France and Québec parliamentary law

In collaboration with the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions, the Social Science Faculty of Université Laval, as well as the French National Assembly, the General Directorate for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs is currently developing a university distance training program. This program will focus on parliamentary functioning and work as it is performed in the parliamentary systems of France and Québec. Both systems are based on different legal traditions: the written law of the French system is "continental", while Québec's system is based on the British model. This training is designed for professionals, researchers and students, as well as anyone wishing to expand their knowledge on parliamentarism.

The National Assembly, A Stimulating Work Environment

The Human Resources Directorate focuses on a proactive strategy to promote the National Assembly as an employer of choice. As such, the Directorate takes part in various forums where employers can exchange with people seeking employment in various sectors. These initiatives also help to attract new employees at the National Assembly.

ACTIVITIES	DATE
Parliament Building Open House Day	24 June 2012
Université Laval Employment Connection	20 September 2012
Cultural Communities Networking and Employability Seminar	28 September 2012
TI Career Day	1 December 2012
Employers and Graduating Students from the tourist guide program of Mérici College Annual Meeting	15 January 2013
Social Science Career Day - Université Laval	6 February 2013

Finally, in order to provide work to the new generation, the National Assembly hired more than 28 interns and 31 students during the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Use of appropriations allocated to the National Assembly in 2012-2013

	Appropriations used* ($ 000)	Authorized staff positions	
		Permanent employees**	Casual employees**
GENERAL SECRETARIAT			
Office of the Secretary General	1,932.8	10	0
	1,932.8	10	0
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS			
General Directorate for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs	1,617.5	12	0
Parliamentary Proceedings Directorate	3,294.4	49	16
Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate	483.6	17	0
	5,395.5	78	16
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY			
General Directorate for Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library	7,250.6	79	2
Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate	1,963.1	22	0
Communications and Educational Programs Directorate	2,023.5	30	1
Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate	2,208.9	32	5
	13,446.1	163	8
ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION			
Associate General Secretariat for Administration	1,875.3	4	0
Building Management and Material Resources Directorate	11,788.7	56	2
Computer Services, Debate Broadcasting and Telecommunications Directorate	11,226.4	92	16
Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate	1,221.3	26	0
Human Resources Directorate	10,429.9	27	4
Restaurants Service	1,572.4	6	13
Security Directorate	4,619.2	80	9
	42,733.2	291	44
STATUTORY SUPPORT SERVICES TO PARLIAMENTARIANS	59,073.1		
APPROPRIATIONS USED	**122,580.7**	**542**	**68**
FIXED ASSETS DEPRECIATION	5,316.8		

* The appropriations used include fixed assets, salaries, operations, advances and transfers.

** Authorized FTEs (full time equivalents)

Health

The National Assembly's occupational health and safety policies and practices support the well-being of its employees in their professional environment. In substance, this intention is reflected in the production and broadcasting of information on various themes, as well as the organization of conferences.

In 2011-2012, the Assembly broadcast information and organized activities with regard to the following events:

- Cancer Awareness Month (April 2012);
- Mental Health Month (May 2012);
- Quebec Tobacco Free-Week (20 to 26 January 2013);
- Heart Month (February 2013);
- Nutrition Month (March 2013).

Moreover, the annual influenza vaccination campaign was held in November 2012, during which time 142 employees received a flu shot.

Lunchtime presentations

Three lunchtime presentations were held in conjunction with several departments. These presentations were designed for employees who wished to gather information on various topics. Topics covered included:

- *Pour aller mieux à deux!*, a conference on the challenges of life as a couple;
- *Se mobiliser en équipe : trucs et outils en un petit pas par jour;*
- *Les faces cachées du stress et des émotions.*

These conferences are available on DVD at the Library.

Entraide campaign

Once again, government employees showed their generosity by giving $41,032 during the Entraide campaign, thus helping thousands of people.

The Entraide Campaign is a vast movement of solidarity and constitutes an invaluable demonstration of the generosity of government employees. New this year, the cooks at the Assembly were honoured in the now traditional calendar sold during the Entraide campaign. They share their passion for cooking through their recipes.

Also new this year, the drawing contest organized by the Library brought happiness to children, who were asked to let their creativity shine on the topic of *"Donner, ça rend le cœur léger"* [Giving cheers up your heart].

Sustainable development at the National Assembly

The National Assembly is proud to have established, in 2009, an ambitious Sustainable Development Action Plan to consolidate its desire to take concrete actions. Sustainable development has become essential to organizations concerned with leaving future generations with a healthy environment that respects both the environment and society. In 2012-2013, the Assembly took the following measures:

Reduced lighting to save energy

With its new control panels, reduced lighting in the corridors of the Parliament Building can now be scheduled; lighting is therefore reduced between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. on weekdays, and throughout the weekend. In addition, all light bulbs are progressively replaced with LED lamps, which are more efficient and last longer.

Furthermore, the Assembly took part in Earth Hour for the sixth consecutive year. As a symbolic gesture for the environment, the National Assembly shut its lights between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on 23 March 2013.

Less paper is more ecological

Reducing the amount of paper used in the National Assembly is a constant challenge. The Assembly encourages its employees to reduce the use of paper, for example, by printing both sides of a sheet. In addition, more and more documents are stored electronically or are scanned in order to reduce the amount of hard copies. Finally, since March 2013, paper is no longer used during meetings of the Management Committee.

Green restaurants

The Le Parlementaire and Café du Parlement restaurants joined in sustainable development efforts by offering a menu promoting local products. Moreover, most disposable take-out containers are biodegradable, plastic bottles have been eliminated, and recycling and composting bins have been placed in strategic locations.

BILLS PASSED

39th Legislature - 2nd Session (1 April 2012 to 15 June 2012)

Note: no hearings were held between 16 June and 1 August 2012

CNA:	Committee on the National Assembly	**CPF:**	Committee on Public Finance
CPA:	Committee on Public Administration	**CI:**	Committee on Institutions
CAFENR:	Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources	**CCR:**	Committee on Citizen Relations
CPP:	Committee on Planning and the Public Domain	**CHSS:**	Committee on Health and Social Services
CCE:	Committee on Culture and Education	**CTE:**	Committee on Transportation and the Environment
CLE:	Committee on Labour and the Economy		

Government bills (passed)

29	CI	An Act to establish the Access to Justice Fund (passed unanimously)
31	CI	An Act to amend various provisions concerning the organization of police services (passed unanimously)
34	CPP	An Act to ensure the occupancy and vitality of territories (passed unanimously)
43	CI	An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act and other legislative provisions (passed unanimously)
51	CAFENR	An Act to amend the Animal Health Protection Act mainly in regard to animal safety and welfare (passed unanimously)
53	CHSS	An Act to dissolve the Société de gestion informatique SOGIQUE (passed on division)
55	CHSS	An Act respecting the professional recognition of medical electrophysiology technologists (passed unanimously)
56	CCE	An Act to prevent and stop bullying and violence in schools *(modified title)* (Vote: Yeas 96, Nays 0, Abstentions 0 - passed unanimously)
57	CTE	An Act to modify the rules governing the use of photo radar devices and red light camera systems and amend other legislative provisions (passed unanimously)

58	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Pension Plan of Management Personnel and other legislative provisions (passed unanimously)
59	CHSS	An Act respecting the sharing of certain health information (passed unanimously)
61	CI	Chartered Professional Accountants Act (passed unanimously)
63	CPF	An Act to amend the Taxation Act, the Act respecting the Québec sales tax and various legislative provisions (passed on division)
64	CI	An Act to promote access to justice in family matters (passed unanimously)
66		Appropriation Act No. 2, 2012-2013 (passed on division)
69	CPP	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs (passed unanimously)
71	CTE	An Act respecting compensation measures for the carrying out of projects affecting wetlands or bodies of water (passed unanimously)
74	CHSS	An Act to prevent skin cancer caused by artificial tanning (passed unanimously)
75	CI	An Act to confer certain powers of inspection and seizure on the Commission of Inquiry on the Awarding and Management of Public Contracts in the Construction *(modified title)* (passed unanimously)
76	CCE	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (passed unanimously)
78	CP	An Act to enable students to receive instruction from the postsecondary institutions they attend (Vote: Yeas 68, Nays 48, Abstentions 0 – passed on division)

Private Members' public bills (passed)

None

Private bills (passed)

212	CPF	An Act respecting the conversion of LS Mutual Life Insurance Company (passed unanimously)
214	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Saguenay (passed unanimously)
216	CPP	An Act respecting Dixville Home Inc. (passed unanimously)

Government bills which died on the Order Paper when Parliament was dissolved on 1 August 2012

4	An Act to allow municipalities to grant a tax credit to certain owners of residential immovables affected by a significantly higher than average increase in value
14	An Act respecting the development of mineral resources in keeping with the principles of sustainable development
19	An Act to establish a temporary electoral representation regime and to suspend certain provisions of the Election Act
24	An Act mainly to combat consumer debt overload and modernize consumer credit rule
27	An Act respecting the Société du Plan Nord
36	An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services as regards joint procurement
37	An Act to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions as regards land registration
38	An Act to amend the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level and the Act respecting the Université du Québec with respect to governance
44	An Act to amend the General and Vocational Colleges Act with respect to governance
45	An Act to amend the Civil Code, the Code of Civil Procedure and the Public Curator Act as regards the protection of persons
46	An Act respecting independent police investigations
47	Sustainable Regional and Local Land Use Planning Act
48	An Act concerning the environmental inspection of motor vehicles
50	An Act to amend the Act to regularize and provide for the development of local slaughterhouses
60	An Act mainly to modernize the occupational health and safety plan and its application to domestics
65	An Act respecting natural heritage conservation and the sustainable development of the area covered by the Northern Plan
67	An Act to amend the Sustainable Forest Development Act and the Act respecting the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune

68	An Act to amend the Act respecting liquor permits and other legislative provisions
70	An Act to facilitate civil proceedings by victims of crime and the exercise of certain other rights
72	An Act to amend the Public Service Act mainly respect to staffing
73	An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 20 March 2012
77	An Act to amend various legislation respecting the professions and other legislative provisions in the field of applied sciences
79	An Act to amend certain provisions of the Professional Code relating to the disciplinary councils of the professional orders
80	An Act respecting voluntary retirement savings plans
81	An Act to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions as regards adoption and parental authority
83	Funeral Operations Act
84	An Act to amend various legislative provisions in the health and social services field
94	An Act to establish guidelines governing accommodation requests within the Administration and certain institutions
190	An Act to provide a framework for appointments to certain senior positions
191	An Act to amend the Auditor General Act
192	An Act to amend the Act to ensure the enlargement of Parc national du Mont-Orford, the preservation of the biodiversity of adjacent lands and the maintenance of recreational tourism activities in order to bring the excluded lands back within the boundaries of the park
193	An Act to amend the Transport Act
194	An Act to amend the Health Insurance Act
195	An Act to amend the Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information
196	Québec Public Sector Employees Disclosure Protection Act
197	An Act to amend the Auditor General Act in order to allow comprehensive auditing of Hydro-Québec
198	An Act to exclude child support payments from income calculation under various social laws

391	An Act to assert the fundamental values of the Québec nation
393	An Act to amend the Public Administration Act to require government departments and bodies to publish monthly reports of their expenditures
394	An Act respecting the Agence québécoise du cancer
395	An Act to govern the accessibility and universality of health services in Québec
396	An Act to put a temporary stop to shale gas exploration and development activities
397	An Act to impose a moratorium on shale gas exploration and development projects
398	An Act to end the precedence of mining rights over other land uses and to again amend the Act respecting land use planning and development
399	An Act to modernize the provisions relating to strikebreakers and to again amend the Labour Code
490	An Act respecting the greater use of wood in construction
491	An Act to prohibit asbestos and uranium exploration and mining in Québec
492	An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly
493	Recall Act
494	An Act to amend the Act respecting the remuneration of elected municipal officers
495	An Act respecting transparency in union matters and amending various legislative provisions
496	An Act to provide a fixed date for the election of Members of the National Assembly as of 13 May 2013
497	An Act to change the name of the electoral division of Verchères
498	Mandatory Reporting of Child Pornography Act
499	An Act respecting dynamic land occupancy and decentralization
590	An Act to abolish the requirement of legal representation before the Commission d'accès à l'information
591	An Act to confirm the application of the Charter of the French language to government agency subsidiaries
593	Québec Charter of the French Language
594	An Act to amend the Civil Code with regard to the suspension of extinctive prescription

595	An Act to amend the Civil Code as regards disability insurance
596	An Act to modernize Québec's democratic institutions
597	An Act to amend the Act to enable students to receive instruction from the postsecondary institutions they attend
598	An Act to establish Pharma-Québec
599	An Act to affirm the collective nature of natural resources

Private bills which died on the Order Paper when Parliament was dissolved on 1 August 2012

203	An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté de Memphrémagog
205	An Act respecting certain deeds of donation by Samuel Bronfman
210	An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté de La Vallée-du-Richelieu
211	An Act respecting Ville de Terrebonne
213	An Act respecting the French-World Theological Institute (FTI)
215	An Act respecting Ville de Rouyn-Noranda

Status of Bills Passed

Government bills:

Spring 2012 (1 April to 15 June 2012 inclusive): **21 bills were passed**

Of the 21 bills passed during this period:

17 were passed unanimously

4 were passed on division

Private Members' public bills:

None

Private Bills:

Spring 2012 (1 April to 15 June 2012 inclusive): **3 bills were passed**

All 3 bills were passed unanimously during this period

Number of bills which died on the Order Paper when Parliament was dissolved on 1 August 2012

Public bills: **64**

Private bills: **6**

40th Legislature - 1st session (30 October 2012 to 31 March 2013)

Government bills (passed)

1	CPF	Integrity in Public Contracts Act (passed unanimously) (fall 2012)
2	CI	An Act to amend the Election Act in order to reduce the elector contribution limit, lower the ceiling on election expenses and increase public financing of Québec political parties *(modified title)* (Vote: Yeas 116, Nays 0, Abstentions, 0 - passed unanimously) (fall 2012)
4	CAFENR	An Act to amend the Act to regularize and provide for the development of local slaughterhouses (passed unanimously) (fall 2012)
5	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Québec sales tax and other legislative provisions (passed unanimously) (fall 2012)
6	CLE	An Act concerning the date of coming into force of certain provisions of the Act to eliminate union placement and improve the operation of the construction industry (passed unanimously) (fall 2012)
7	CAFENR	An Act to amend the Sustainable Forest Development Act and other legislative provisions (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
8	CPP	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs (passed unanimously) (fall 2012)
9	CHSS	An Act to establish the Health and Social Services Information Resources Funds (passed on division) (fall 2012)
10	CPP	An Act to provide for the provisional relief from office of an elected municipal officer (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
11	CP	An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly and the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly (passed unanimously) (fall 2012)
15	CLE	An Act to provide for the establishment of target-benefit pension plans in certain pulp and paper sector enterprises (passed unanimously) (fall 2012)
19		Appropriation Act No. 1, 2013-2014 (Vote: Yeas 52, Nays 51, Abstentions 0 – passed on division) (spring 2013)

Private Members' public bills (passed)

None

Private bills (passed)

200	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Hyacinthe (passed unanimously) (fall 2012)
201	CPF	An Act to establish Mutuelle de microfinance (Québec) (passed unanimously) (fall 2012)

Status of Bills Passed

Government bills:

Fall 2012: **9 bills were passed**

Spring 2013: **3 bills were passed**

Of the 12 bills passed during 2012-2013:

10 were passed unanimously

2 were passed on division

Private Members' public bills:

Fall 2012: no bills were passed

Spring 2013: no bills were passed

Private bills:

Fall 2012: **2 bills were passed**

Spring 2013: no bills were passed

Of the 2 bills passed during 2012-2013:

Both bills were passed unanimously

Government bills at the stage of introduction as at 31 March 2013:

20	Firearms Registration Act
23	An Act to amend the Education Act concerning certain educational services for students under five years of age
27	Social Economy Act
29	An Act to amend the Act respecting Héma-Québec and the haemovigilance committee
30	An Act to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions with respect to research
32	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Pension Plan of Peace Officers in Correctional Services and other legislative provisions
33	An Act to amend the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly

Government bills at the stage of passage in principle as at 31 March 2013:

3	An Act to amend the Election Act for the purpose of establishing fixed-date elections

Government bills at the stage of clause-by-clause consideration in committee as at 31 March 2013:

12	CI	An Act to amend the Police Act as concerns independent investigations
13	CI	An Act to amend the Election Act with regard to on-campus voting by students in vocational training centres and post-secondary educational (modified title)
17	CI	An Act to amend the Professional Code with respect to disciplinary justice
18	CPF	An Act to amend the Taxation Act and other legislative provisions
25	CPF	An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 20 November 2012

Government bills at the stage of the tabling of the report on the clause-by-clause consideration in committee as at 31 March 2013:

21	CPF	An Act to optimize government action in delivering public services to citizens and businesses

Government bills referred to committee for general or special consultations as at 31 March 2013:

14	CCE	An Act to amend the Charter of the French language, the Charter of human rights and freedoms and other legislative provisions (general consultation)
18	CPF	An Act to amend the Taxation Act and other legislative provisions (special consultations)
24	CCE	An Act to amend the Act respecting school elections (special consultations)
26	CPP	An Act to amend the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities with respect to financing (special consultations)

Government bills at the stage of the tabling of the consultation report as at 31 March 2013:

22	CI	An Act to amend the Crime Victims Compensation Act (special consultations)

Private Members' public bills at the stage of introduction as at 31 March 2013

190	An Act to amend the Election Act in order to reduce the elector contribution limit
191	An Act to establish Pharma-Québec
192	Parliamentary Budget Officer Act
193	An Act to amend the Auditor General Act
194	An Act to amend the Act respecting liquor permits and other legislative provisions
195	An Act to exclude child support payments from income calculation under various social laws
197	An Act respecting wealth and job creation through sustainable mining development

198	An Act to end the precedence of mining rights over other land uses and to amend the Act respecting land use planning and development
199	An Act to amend the Anti-Corruption Act as concerns the protection of whistleblowers
390	An Act respecting the review of the financial benefits granted to the Members of the National Assembly

Private bills at the stage of clause-by-clause consideration in committee as at 31 March 2013:

None

ORDERS CARRIED OUT BY THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee on the National Assembly

- Temporarily change the Standing Orders, the membership of the standing committees, and adopt a list of temporary chairmen (40th Legislature)

Committee on Public Administration

Accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies concerning:

- Examination of the 2010-2011 annual report of the Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor (39th Legislature)
- Professional service contracts related to information technologies (Report of the Auditor General 2012-2013, fall 2012, chapter 5) (40th Legislature)
- Air quality in schools (Report of the Auditor General 2012-2013, fall 2012, chapter 2) (40th Legislature)

Other orders:

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair (40th Legislature)
- Hearing with the Auditor General on his annual management report and his financial commitments for 2011-2012 (40th Legislature)

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources

Clause-by-clause consideration: 5 public bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 7: An Act to amend the Sustainable Forest Development Act and other legislative provisions (40th Legislature)
- Special consultations within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 51: An Act to amend the Animal Health Protection Act mainly in regard to animal safety and welfare (40th Legislature)
- Special consultations within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 67: An Act to amend the Sustainable Forest Development Act and the Act respecting the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (40th Legislature)

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure:

- - 2012-2013 (39th Legislature)
- - 2013-2014 (40th Legislature)

Interpellations:

- The future of the Northern Plan under a PQ Government (40th Legislature)
- The abandonment of natural resources by the PQ Government (40th Legislature)

Other orders:

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair (40th Legislature)
- Impact study on decommissioning the Gentilly-2 nuclear power plant and on the plan for economic diversification of Centre-du-Québec and Mauricie (40th Legislature)
- Review the five-year assessment of the status of the forests in the domain of the State and of the results achieved in sustainable management of forests (40th Legislature)
- Continue drafting the report in response to the special consultations held in the National Assembly on 29 and 30 January 2013 in relation to the impact of decommissioning the Gentilly-2 nuclear power plant and to the plan for economic diversification of Centre-du-Québec and Mauricie (40th Legislature)

Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills 2 private bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 8, An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs (40th Legislature)
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 10, An Act to provide for the provisional relief from office of an elected municipal officer (40th Legislature)

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure:

- 2012-2013 (39th Legislature)
- 2013-2014 (40th Legislature)

Other order:

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair (40th Legislature)

Committee on Culture and Education

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills

Consultations:

- General consultation within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 14: An Act to amend the Charter of the French language, the Charter of human rights and freedoms and other legislative provisions (40th Legislature)

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure:

- 2012-2013 (39th Legislature)
- 2013-2014 (40th Legislature)

Interpellation:

- The economic contribution of our academic institutions in a climate of underfunding (40th Legislature)

Other order:

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair (40th Legislature)

Commission on Labour and the Economy

Clause-by-clause consideration: 1 public bill

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 6, An Act concerning the date of coming into force of certain provisions of the Act to eliminate union placement and improve the operation of the construction industry (40th Legislature)

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure:

- 2012-2013 (39th Legislature)
- 2013-2014 (40th Legislature)

Interpellations:

- Improving the living conditions of Quebecers (39th Legislature)
- The lack of vision of the Government's industrial policy and its "place mat consultation" (40th Legislature)

Other orders:

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair (40th Legislature)
- Examination of the Regulation respecting the labour-referral service licence in the construction industry tabled on Thursday 6 December by the Minister of Labour (40th Legislature)

Committee on Public Finance

Clause-by-clause consideration: 6 public bills and 2 private bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 1, Integrity in Public Contracts Act (40th Legislature)
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 21, An Act to optimize government action in delivering public services to citizens and businesses (40th Legislature)

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure:

- 2012-2013 (39th Legislature)
- 2013-2014 (40th Legislature)

Interpellations:

- The economic costs of Québec being a Canadian province (39th Legislature)
- The impacts of the PQ Government's decisions on returning to a balanced budget (40th Legislature)

Other orders:

- Continuation of the debate on the budget speech (40th Legislature)
- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair (40th Legislature)

Committee on Institutions

Clause-by-clause consideration: 6 public bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 2, An Act to amend the Election Act in order to reduce the elector contribution limit, lower the ceiling on election expenses and increase public financing of Québec political parties (40th Legislature)

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 12, An Act to amend the Police Act as concerns independent investigations (40th Legislature)
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 17, An Act to amend the Professional Code with respect to disciplinary justice (40th Legislature)
- Special consultations within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 22: An Act to amend the Election Act with regard to on-campus voting by students in vocational training centres and post-secondary educational institutions (40th Legislature)
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 61, Chartered Professional Accountants Act (39th Legislature)
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 64, An Act to promote access to justice in family matters (39th Legislature)
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 75, An Act to confer certain powers of inspection and seizure (39th Legislature)

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure:

- 2012-2013 (39th Legislature)
- 2013-2014 (40th Legislature)

Interpellation:

- A majority Conservative government, one year later: consequences for Québec (39th Legislature)

Other orders:

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair (40th Legislature)
- Election of the Committee chair (40th Legislature)

Examination of petitions

- Amending laws governing adoption in Québec (40th Legislature)

Committee on Citizen Relations

Clause-by-clause consideration: 1 public bill

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure:

- 2012-2013 (39th Legislature)
- 2013-2014 (40th Legislature)

Other order:

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair (40th Legislature)

Committee on Health and Social Services

Clause-by-clause consideration: 5 public bills and 1 private bill

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 53, An Act to dissolve the Société de gestion informatique SOGIQUE (39th Legislature)
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 59, An Act respecting the sharing of certain health information (39th Legislature)
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 74, An Act to prevent skin cancer caused by artificial tanning (39th Legislature)

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure:

- 2012-2013 (39th Legislature)
- 2013-2014 (40th Legislature)

Interpellation:

- The health services tax in Québec (39th Legislature)

Consideration of petitions:

- The services offered to individuals with autism or suffering from pervasive developmental disorder (39th Legislature)
- An Act authorizing people with disabilities to always be accompanied by their service dog (40th Legislature)
- Drinking water fluoridation (40th Legislature)

Other orders:

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair (40th Legislature)
- Election of the Committee vice-chair (40th Legislature)
- Hearing with the Capitale-Nationale Health and Social Services Agency within the framework of the examination of its annual management reports from 2009-2010 to 2011-2012 (40th Legislature)
- Hearing with the Bas-Saint-Laurent, Mauricie and Centre du Québec, Chaudière-Appalaches, Estrie, and Outaouais Health and Social Services Agencies within the framework of the examination of their annual management reports from 2007-2008 to 2011-2012 (40th Legislature)

Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 48, An Act concerning the environmental inspection of motor vehicles (39th Legislature)
- Special consultations within the framework of the clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 57: An Act to modify the rules governing the use of photo radar devices and red light camera systems and amend other legislative provisions (39th Legislature)
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 71, An Act respecting compensation measures for the carrying out of projects affecting wetlands or bodies of water (39th Legislature)

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure:

- 2012-2013 (39th Legislature)
- 2013-2014 (40th Legislature)

Other orders:

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair (40th Legislature)
- Shed light on the events of last 24 October concerning the action taken by the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks with respect to the independent public body known as the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) (40th Legislature)

Wage Bill, Allowances and Expenses of Members for 2012-2013

WAGE BILL OF MEMBERS	
Regular remuneration (includes base allowance and additional allowance)	$11,767,750

ALLOWANCES	
Allowances for expenses, attendance and allowances for political activities	$2,997,359
Transition allowances (includes allowances granted when Member leaves)*	$0
Travel from the electoral division to the Parliament Building	$1,016,403
Lodging in or around Québec City	$1,556,652
Additional allowance for the purchase of furniture and office equipment during the first term of office	$78,101
Electoral division office operation expenses	$5,639,174

EXPENSES	Members' staff	Parliamentary office holder's staff	Total
Wage bill	$14,230,120	$6,615,722	$20,845,842
Travel expenses	$450,388	$486,361	$936,749
Research services of political parties			$2,668,817

*Transition allowances paid in 2012-2013 amounted to $2,673,294, but had been provisioned in 2010-2011.

MANDATES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCHES AS AT 31 MARCH 2013

The **Secretary General** is the highest-ranking public servant of the National Assembly and chief advisor to the President and Members in the interpretation of parliamentary procedure. The Secretary General oversees and manages the personnel of the Assembly, administers day-to-day affairs and carries out all other duties assigned to him or her by the Office of the National Assembly, of which he is the secretary.

The **Office Secretariat Directorate** organizes and follows up on the work of the Office and provides Members with information on their working conditions and the services available to them. It also assists the Secretary General in the day-to-day running of his office and coordinates and carries out mandates and projects for the Assembly.

The **General Directorate for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs** advises Assembly authorities and administrative units in legal matters and provides professional expertise as regards the drafting of Private Members' public bills and private bills. It coordinates, plans and supervises the activities of the administrative units of the parliamentary sector and assists the Secretary General in his or her advisory role with respect to Assembly and committee proceedings.

The **Parliamentary Proceedings Directorate** prepares, sees to the orderly conduct of, and follows up on Assembly and committee proceedings. It publishes, in French and in English, the Order Paper and Notices and the Votes and Proceedings for every sitting, as well as the Standing Orders and Other Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly. It provides the expertise required for the planning, organization, conduct and reporting of committee proceedings.

The **Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate** provides all professional and technical services with respect to the translation, revision, publishing and printing of bills and translates and revises administrative and other texts.

The **Associate General Secretariat for Administration** provides services with respect to debates publishing and broadcasting, human resources, financial resources, procurement and audit, building management and material resources, computer services and telecommunications, security and food services. It assists the Secretary General in managing the administrative affairs of the Assembly and its digital information services.

The **Building Management and Material Resources Directorate** is responsible for any construction, renovation, conservation, restoration, lay-out and maintenance work in or on the Assembly's buildings, and for furnishings and signage. It coordinates and monitors activities related to the following services: mail, courier, printing, reprography, office supplies and equipment and the distribution of parliamentary documents.

The **Computer Services, Broadcasting and Telecommunications Directorate** is responsible for broadcasting parliamentary proceedings, press conferences and special activities in addition to producing audiovisual and multimedia education material. It advises the authorities on directions and policies in the area of computer data and systems and information technologies. It provides services in the area of computer technology and office automation and telecommunications, as well as training and support in the use of hardware, software and computer systems and contributes to development strategies for new technologies.

The **Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate** coordinates and supervises activities relating to budget preparation and follow-up, the recording of transactions, and procurement. It advises and assists Assembly authorities and directors in the areas of finance and procurement.

The **Human Resources Directorate** assists Assembly authorities and directors in administrative organization, personnel management, job evaluation and classification, and work organization. It co-ordinates and carries out activities relating to work organization, staffing, personnel management, labour relations, remuneration, working conditions, occupational health and safety and professional development.

The **Security Directorate** advises Assembly authorities on all security and safety measures and is responsible for the safety of persons and property as well as for the security of buildings and offices of the Assembly.

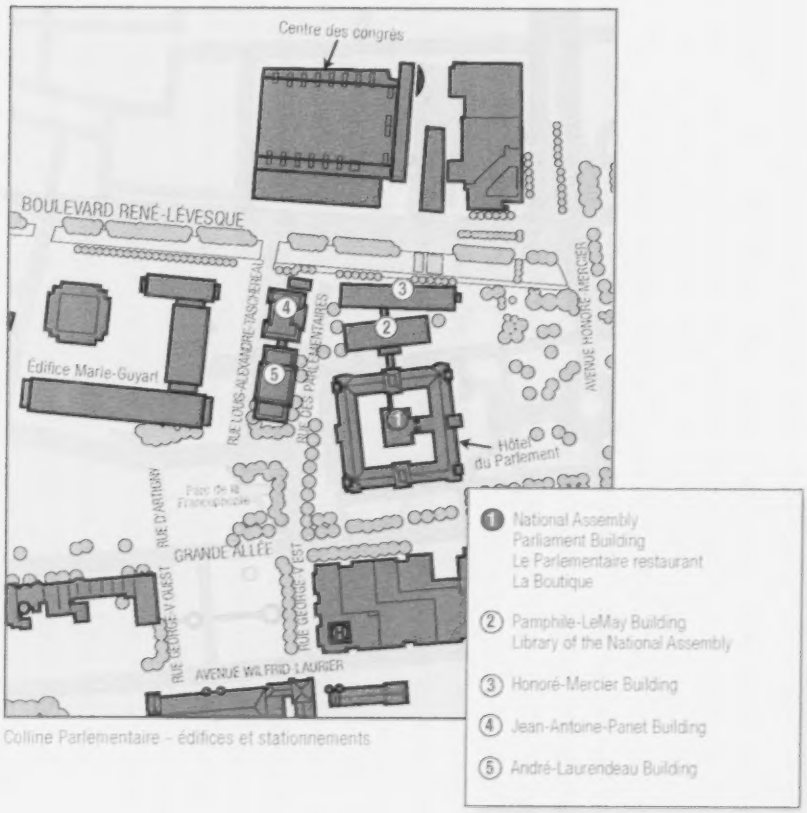
The **General Directorate for Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library** provides professional and technical services with respect to communications, educational activities, protocol, welcoming of visitors, and interparliamentary and international relations. It ensures the conservation of parliamentary documents and the management of archival and heritage material in addition to planning, directing, coordinating and supervising the acquisition, management, preservation and distribution of the Library's collections. It provides reference and research services to parliamentarians and its various other clienteles.

The **Communications and Educational Programs Directorate** promotes the Assembly's outreach by informing the public of its democratic role. It is responsible for the institution's communications, promotion and public relations. It provides graphics, integration, web design and linguistic services, as well as services to the Press Gallery. In addition to advising authorities and administrative units on communication and public relations, it provides services in graphic design and editing, drafting, revision, Web communication as well as an information service to the media. Moreover, it coordinates the development and production of educational programs and provides technical support for parliamentary simulations. Furthermore, in conjunction with the Debates Broadcasting Service, it develops and coordinates the production of audiovisual and multimedia material to be broadcast on the Channel or on the website.

The **Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate** advises Assembly authorities on interparliamentary and international relations and coordinates the activities of the National Assembly in this area.

The **Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate** provides protocol services for the Assembly and prepares and oversees official ceremonies. Furthermore, it provides visitor and information services and guided tours of the Parliament Building, and manages the Assembly's gift shop.

SOME PRACTICAL **INFORMATION**



Colline Parlementaire – édifices et stationnements

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Parliament Building
1045, rue des Parlementaires
Québec City (Québec) G1A 1A3

General Information

Telephone: 418 643-7239
Toll-free number: 1 866 DÉPUTÉS
(1 866 337-8837)
Fax: 418 646-4271
Email: accueil@assnat.qc.ca

GUIDED TOURS

Regular hours*
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Summer hours
24 June to Labour Day:
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 24 June and 1 July and Labour Day, 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Reservations are required for groups of more than 10 people

OUTDOOR GUIDED TOURS

24 June to Labour Day:
Monday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Information

Telephone: 418 643-7239
Fax: 418 646-4271
Email: guides@assnat.qc.ca

LE PARLEMENTAIRE RESTAURANT

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

Reservations

Telephone: 418 643-6640
Fax: 418 643-6378
Email: resto@assnat.qc.ca

LA BOUTIQUE gift shop

Regular hours*
Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Summer hours
24 June to Labour Day:
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Information

Telephone: 418 643-8785
Fax: 418 528-6022
Email: boutique@assnat.qc.ca

** Subject to change without notice*

September 2013

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

A place for every citizen

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